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Newsletter 32

"The glory of creation is in its infinite diversity and the way our differences combine to create meaning and beauty."

Honorary Members: Gene Roddenberry, Majel Barrett, Jonathan del Arco, Richard Arnold, James Doohan, Siddig El Fadil, Robert Justman, Walter Koenig, John de Lancie & Marnie Mosiman, Mark Lenard, Michael Okuda, Ernie Over, Nichelle Nichols, Susan Sackett, Marina Sirtis, Patrick Stewart, Rick Sternbach, George Takei, Guy Vardaman, Rupert Evans, Lorraine Kelly, Anne Page, Rick Parfitt, Bjo Trimble.

Hi, welcome to another newsletter. We would like to thank all those who sent us cards and gifts. They were very much appreciated and we are just sorry we couldn't reciprocate them all.

I'm afraid that our bad news for the New Year is that we have decided to put the dues up by 50p. Between printing and postage prices alone we have had an increase of 9p per newsletter (54p a year) and we just can't cover this and continue to put out 100 page newsletters. It is 54p to the individual and 1250 x 54p to us. We are resisting putting dues up by £1 because we know money is tight - we are just hoping that we don't face any more large increases in cost this year.

Helen was in a car crash a couple of months ago and has been suffering from whiplash. We hope you will be better soon, Helen.

Our contributors certainly didn't let us down in getting material in for this newsletter, in spite of the very tight deadline. When we decided on this weekend to do the newsletter we didn't realise that, here in Scotland, there would only be post on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday after Christmas, and Wednesday,

Thursday, Friday and Saturday after New Year. If any new members are wondering how we pick the weekend to compile the newsletter - it depends on three things. We like to get the newsletter posted, at the latest, by the end of the first week of the month it is due, and since Valerie works every other Saturday we need to choose a week when she is off. For this newsletter we had the choice of the 8th or 22nd and if we had chosen the latter the newsletter could have been posted as late as February 9th. Having said that, we may well decide to put the February newsletter out later in future, just to give more time for the post to settle down after the holidays.

We also have to pick all the newsletter weekends a year in advance because Sheila has to arrange for her mother to go into care, and so that she can get away when she needs to, she has to put her dates in early.

Orders - Occasionally someone sends us an order for something - a book or, more often, a zine published by someone else - that has been reviewed in the newsletter. Please remember, if it is not put out by ScoTpress or IDIC, we can't supply it. When something is reviewed, we try to give an address where it

can be obtained; if we haven't, we can always forward a letter from you to the reviewer, asking where you can get the item.

BADGES

You can still order IDIC logo badges from Janet at 50p inclusive of p&p. Please make payment in stamps. Also please enclose a self addressed sticky label or write your name and address on a piece of paper which we can stick on an envelope.

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS

The closing date for the next newsletter is March 3rd (March 1st for anything sent to Sheila). Don't forget - send postbag submissions, articles and reviews to Sheila, discs and everything else to Janet. And PLEASE put your full name on all submissions - if you don't and it gets separated from your letter then we can't print it.

This time again we were unable to use a couple of postbag submissions that got separated from the covering letter. When we open the mail, we deal it into piles depending on what it's for, and don't always remember to check that a name is on each item. If it's a quiet day - ie only two or three items for the N/L, which are being typed up the same day - it might be possible to check the letters and find out who sent the submission; if it's a busy day or if there's a stockpile of two or three days' N/L material, we just don't have the time to do that.

If you are using a computer we would be very grateful if you could send your submissions on disc. We can read BBC & Archimedes discs, MS DOS 3.5" (all formats - but preferably 720K+), 5.25" (720K max. and preferably 720K), Atari ST discs, Amstrad PCW 3" discs. If you don't have Impression or Word Perfect, all files should be saved as ASCII text files, not justified and preferably saved without line-end markers. Note: if you are sending a disc to Janet do not send a separate hard copy to Sheila. If you have an Amiga or MacIntosh, just save an ASCII text file onto a 3.5" disc and send it to Janet, letting her know which computer you have. A couple of members have offered to copy files onto DOS discs for us, but please send

your disc at least two weeks before the closing date for contributions.

Our thanks to Jean Barron, Chris Boyce, Peter Carmody, Stephen Daniels, Ian Dixon, Barbara Ellams, Michael Flett, Eileen Hillis, Eileen Hills, Paul Lazarus, Mervyn Leeder, Fiona McDonald, Stewart McMillan, Harminder Pal, Shirly Read, Jim Redrup, Moira Russell, Mandy Jane Sampson, Stephen Shaw, Karen Sparks, Alan Stephens, Jenny Turner, Joan Verba, Elaine Wells, Helen White, Edward Woo and anyone we have inadvertently forgotten to mention, for sending information and/or cuttings.

IDIC GUIDE DOG APPEAL

Good news! As of mid November, Sadie (our fourth dog) has qualified (we were notified just too late to include the news in N/L 31). A further bit of good news is that Sadie's litter sister Sebbie, who was sent to one of the English training centres, has also qualified. That means all four dogs bred by one of our members in Aberdeenshire (Jade, Aero, Sadie and Sebbie) that were taken by the GDA have successfully finished their training and are now fully qualified guide dogs. (For new members, IDIC sponsored Aero as well as Sadie.) The GDA is keeping in touch with Joyce, and there's a strong possibility that another of her pups (though not from the same parents - the mother of the four successful dogs is now too old to be bred again) will be going to Forfar in 1994. Joyce breeds her German Shepherds to working and obedience lines, rather than show lines, and the success of these four dogs is a mark of this.

During November, Sheila took two big batches of stamps to Forfar - and when we say big, we mean BIG - it was a bootful each time - and a smaller batch (just three full carrier bags) in December. Please keep the stamps coming in - you may think it's not worth saving 'just' half a dozen stamps to send if you happen to be writing us, but half a dozen, multiplied by 1300, comes to a lot of stamps! All postage stamps are acceptable - British and foreign.

A new member recently pointed out to us that we airily mention Sheila going to Forfar

with stamps or the collecting box, but that a lot of people don't know who, what or where Forfar is. Forfar is a small (but surprisingly busy) town a few miles north of Dundee, where the main Scottish GDA training centre is situated (there is also a small satellite unit not far from Glasgow.) It's well sited, because the dogs get their initial training there, then when they reach a certain level, they are taken to Dundee for more advanced training. Dogs trained in Scotland also go to Northern Ireland; England has four training centres.

RAFFLE

The raffle winners are: Toni Cumming - Autographed photo of Bob Justman; Kevin J Noble - Classic Trek Playing Cards; Mollie Weston - TNG Playing Cards; Tarem Kalsi - a year's membership of IDIC.

We are having another raffle in this newsletter. We're offering four prizes this time: the h/b books: William Shatner's Star Trek Memories; Shadows in the Sun (Classic Trek novel), The Devil's Heart (TNG novel), and the usual IDIC membership. For those who wish to take part - please state any preference and put it with your name and address or membership number on each individual ticket. Tickets are £1 each. (If you want any extra just send the money and we'll put in a ticket for you.) Please send your ticket/s (and money, of course!) to Sheila or Janet by March 3rd. Winners will be announced in the next newsletter.

Please do not send £1 coins (some of these have been lost in the post) or cheques or POs for less than £2; we will accept stamps (any combination of values from 1p to £2).

Jennifer Blanchard won the auction for the autographed photo of Data with a bid of £21.50. Thanks, Jennifer.

USED STAMPS

If you are only sending used stamps please send them to Sheila as she is the one who takes them to Forfar. If you are enclosing them with other items you can send them to Janet or Valerie for Sheila to collect.

We would like to thank Theresa & HMS

Scotia (Pitreavie), Mark (No 1452), Sandra Blackwell, Jennifer Blanchard, Lynne Buckley, Helen Cakebread, Sandie Cayless, Neil Christie, Tony Cullen, Pamela Dale, Stephen Daniels, Ian Dixon, Michael Farquhar, Margie Ferguson, Mark French, Peter & Eleanor Fry, Kathleen Glancy, Staff and customers of Glasgow City Libraries, Becky Gray, Anne Gregory, David Hall, Jo Healy, Caro Hedge, Katrina Heintz, Martin Helsdon, Adele Hilton, Tracy Holland, Jason Humphreys, Bill Hupe, Christine Jones, Carol Kean, Nanaki Kaur, Marysia Kolodziej, Antje Konig, Ruth Kurz, Lloyd Lewis, Sharon Mansfield, Nicola Markham-Randall, Kerry McGuire, Anne McKay, Nancy McKay, Anne Marie-McKenzie, Andrew McLean, Stewart McMillan, J Milton, Philip Morley, Michelle Oldroyd, Suzanne Perry, Katya Phillips, Taruka Quauhtezcatl, Shirley Read, Gloria Rigg, Jim Robertson, Allison Rooney, Michael Sadler, Neil Safi, Carla Salveta, Mandy Jane Sampson, Karen Sparks, Andy Stewart, Dave Styles, Vikki Tittley, Linda Watt, Janet Wicks, Sally Wilkinson, Edward Woo, Maria Woodward, Julie Woolaston (and thanks to Christine Jones' mother and sister for helping her trim two boxfuls), and anyone we have inadvertently forgotten to mention, for donations of money, collectibles, and/or used stamps for the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association. We can use all used stamps, whether British or Foreign. If possible please trim them, leaving ¼" of envelope around the stamp. We would like to thank Allison Rooney for trimming uncut stamps.

If any American/Canadian members would like to contribute used stamps, you can send them to Bill Hupe, 916 Lamb Rd, Mason, MI 48854-9554, USA and he will forward them to us along with a list of your names so that we can acknowledge them.

We plan to post the next newsletter, out around March 24th, weather permitting. (It could be a week later if bad weather stops Sheila and Valerie getting through to Janet's and proof reading has to be done via the post.)

Janet, Sheila, Valerie 9/1/94

GUIDE DOG SADIE



*Presented to IDIC Star Trek Club
with grateful thanks from
The Guide Dogs for the Blind Association*

STARSHIP VOYAGES LTD

After member Jo Healy wrote to Starship Voyages and told them of bad experiences she and her husband had with CTC Cruises, we have received a letter from them saying that after checking her allegations out via a couple of independant travel agents, they have decided to change cruise ships.

They are currently negotiation with two cruise lines. They will let us know the new arrangements once things are finalised.



LATEST STAR TREK NEWS

compiled by Janet Quarton



STAR TREK on BBC/ITV

Star Trek screening dates.

Ep.	Title	Date Shown
60	And the Children Shall Lead	10/11/93
62	Is There In Truth No Beauty?	17/11/93
56	Spectre of the Gun	24/11/93
66	Day of the Dove	1/12/93
65	For the World Is Hollow and I Have Touched the Sky	8/12/93
64	The Tholian Web	16/12/93
67	Plato's Stepchildren	22/12/93
68	Wink of An Eye	29/12/93
Star Trek V: The Final Frontier		31/12/93
63	Empath	5/1/94
57	Elaan of Troyius	12/1/94

ratings up to 0.42 million for each screening and one or two screening are usually in the top ten. Not bad for its 3rd showing on Sky, and 4th in the UK.

Star Trek VI: The Undiscovered Country had its UK TV premiere on on Sky Movies on Christmas Day.



SITTING - 7TH SEASON

Star Trek: The Next Generation.
Season 7 Broadcast Schedule.
Complied By Edwin Yau.

Date = Date of satellite uplink.

SATELLITE

On December 4th Sky started screening DS9 on Saturday as well as Sunday. The final 1st season episode, In the Hands of the Prophets, was shown on December 12th.

The ratings for DS9 stayed mainly at around 0.5 - 0.6 million, keeping it midway in the Satellite top ten. TNG continues to get

Date	Episode & Title
13/11/93	#261 Force of Nature
20/11/93	#262 Inheritance
27/11/93	#263 Parallels
08/01/94	#264 The Pegasus
15/01/94	#265 Homeward
29/01/94	#266 Sub Rosa
05/02/94	#267 Lower Decks
12/02/94	#268 Thy Known Self

A Short Episode Synopsis:-

#261 Force of Nature: An environmental episode where an alien brother and sister resort to desperate measures to prove their theory that warp drive is destroying the universe.

#262 Inheritance: A Data story which involves his "mother", Dr. Soong's wife, appearing when a mission to save an endangered planet brings Data face-to-face with a woman who claims to be his "mother".

#263 Parallels: Worf returns to the Enterprise after a competition only to find himself in and out of parallel universes, but no-one else seems to notice. Is he going mad? Guest starring Wil Wheaton as... you guessed it, Wesley Crusher! This time he will be returning as a lieutenant in the alternate universe and manning the tactical station.

We also see a Cardassian in Starfleet uniform for the first time.

#264 The Pegasus: Directed by LeVar Burton, the Romulans are back and it is explained why the Federation doesn't have cloaking device technology. Riker will also reunite with his former Captain, now an admiral, who orders him to hide the real purpose of a risky mission from Picard. You will also see the USS Pegasus - the ship Riker first served on after graduating from Starfleet Academy.

#265 Homeward Worf's foster Human brother, Nikolai, a Federation cultural liaison officer, appears. He has violated the Prime Directive by getting involved with a doomed alien race that's not part of the Federation in an effort to save them, and Worf is surgically altered by Dr. Crusher and attempts to rescue his brother.

#266 Sub Rosa: Directed by Jonathan Frakes, Dr. Crusher returns to the terraform colony where her grandmother of 102 years old still lives.

#267 Lower Decks: An episode that is rumoured will tie in with Star Trek Voyager! No details on this episode, but rumour has it that Patti Yasutake, who plays Nurse Ogawa, and Shannon Fill, who plays female Bajoran

Cadet Second Class Sito, will be in the new series.

#268 Thy Known Self [plot unknown]

Other News This Issue:-

Ron Moore is said to be working on another Wesley episode. Gates McFadden is going to direct her first episode next year, and Spot is going to have kittens! Also, after many rumours it has been stated that the bugs from Conspiracy will not be coming back because the first season writers who were going to develop the episode are no longer working for Paramount.

The TNG finale episode is being scripted by Ron Moore and Brandon Braga and involves Q, thus completing the circle (Q appeared in the pilot episode Encounter at Farpoint).

STAR TREK **DEEP SPACE NINE**

Star Trek: Deep Space Nine.
Season 2 Broadcast Schedule.
Compiled By Edwin Yau.

Date = Date of satellite uplink.

Date	Episode & Title
13/11/93	#428 Necessary Evil
20/11/93	#429 Second Sight
27/11/93	#430 Sanctuary
01/01/94	#431 Rivals
08/01/94	#432 The Alternate
29/01/94	#433 Armageddon Game
06/02/94	#434 Whispers
13/02/94	#435 Paradise
20/02/94	#436 Shadow Play

A Short Episode Synopsis:-

#428 Necessary Evil: Another episode centring around Odo, where an attack on Quark's life brings Odo face-to-face with a five year old unsolved murder - for which Kira was a prime suspect.

#429 Second Sight Sisko falls in love for the first time since his wife's death, but the lady he falls for has a habit of disappearing!

#430 Sanctuary: Kira is torn when a displaced alien race arrives on DS9 and claims Bajor as its people's legendary homeland.

#431 Rivals: Quark's empire is threatened when Martus, a charming and shrewd swindler, arrives on DS9 and opens up Club Martus in an attempt to put him out of business. Can Quark con a con man?

#432 The Alternate: Odo's mentor arrives on DS9 intent on resuming his search for Odo's true origin, but why does havoc follow him?

Plots unknown for: (29 Jan) Armageddon Game, (05 Feb) Whispers, (11 Feb) Paradise, and (18 Feb) Shadow Play.

Other News This Issue:-

1) Geordi & Riker will visit DS9 and Kira falls in love.

2) The prime directive will become an issue in a series of DS9 episodes where they encounter "The Dominion Race", which has a prime directive of its own.

3) A sequel to the Classic Trek episode "Mirror, Mirror" is being done!

STAR TREK VII STAR TREK: 4TH SERIES

Janet - The fight is still on between QVC and Viacom to buy Paramount. I have read that QVC are not interested in running the Paramount Network. I am not sure what affect this would have on ST: VOYAGER

I don't think the sale of Paramount will affect the day-to-day production of TNG and DS9.

Next Generation movie/Star Trek: Voyager news from Edwin Yau.

So far Patrick Stewart is the only ST:TNG cast member to have signed for the TNG movie, which will begin filming on 21 March, 1994,

and released next November (*Thanksgiving*). It will be directed by David Carson, who is also directing the DS9 episode, Alternate. The script is going through its final few drafts, and the movie will involve the original cast. Sets are being built at present. Expect to see an upgraded Enterprise bridge as well as some minor costume changes.

Meanwhile, Star Trek: Voyager or ST:VOY, as it has become known, has been given the green light, with its sets being constructed as we speak.

The two-hour pilot opens with the USS Voyager, one of a new class of small Starfleet vessels with a crew of 200, chasing another ship, which is carrying renegade, vigilante Starfleet officers. The pursuit at the Cardassian border takes the ships into a kind of Bermuda Triangle called The Badlands, where a strange natural phenomenon transports them to an unexplored part of the galaxy. By the end, the crews are united on the Voyager where, lost in space, they try to work out their differences as they explore strange new worlds... in their attempt to journey home. The series debuts in January 1995.

The crew will consist of 8 or 9 regulars, still uncast. It is said that there is to be a Commander figure whose race and sex are yet undetermined, a half-Klingon half-Human woman, an Asian, a holographic character, an older male Vulcan, a young officer who was dishonorably discharged but asked back because he has information about the renegades, and a Native American.

Voyager takes place in the 24th century, and will include characters from the current series.

Finally, Paramount has signed three more stations for its Paramount Network, bringing its national reach to almost 40%. A court decision last week may clear the way for QVC to acquire the studio. QVC head Barry Diller has already said he would sell the Paramount TV stations and is not, for now, interested in launching a fifth network.

MISC

- High Trek 12/11/93

The DS9 episode Sanctuary includes two guest stars of note: Andrew Koenig, Walter's son, and Kitty Swink, aka Mrs Armin Shimerman.

William Shatner's 'Star Trek Memories' is no. 8 on New York's best-seller list. Shatner says a follow-up is likely.

- "£2m fight over Star Trek deal" Mail on Sunday 19/12/93.

18 months ago Storm did a deal with Paramount over licensing Star Trek, for use on items like mugs, T-shirts and toys. Paramount agreed to the deal provided that Storm managing director John Knox remained in charge. But last September John Knox quit and in November Paramount cancelled its contract.

Now Storm is suing Knox. The company claims he left before his contract expired, causing a £2 million loss of business. It also claims Knox, who now runs his own company Absolute Licensing, removed or destroyed confidential documents.

• "Kirk can't Klingon any more" Sunday Mirror 26/12/93 Article about STVII giving some story details:

Kirk dies after being hit by a ray gun. He dies with the line, "It was fun." He falls battling the evil Dr Soran while saving 200 million innocent people on a small planet in the Beta quadrant.

In the movie, which combines the crews of the original series and TNG, the Trekkies are battling two evil Klingon sisters who get aroused during moments of danger.

A tame android agrees to try to lure one of the sisters, kissing her and saying, "Come to me. my little garlic muffin." His uniform is suddenly ripped to shreds and his arms fall off - but the crew use his body parts to repair the stranded Enterprise.

At the end of the new film, the crew mourn the death of Kirk and the end of the Enterprise, which also perishes. But before the closing credits Picard says: "I doubt this will be the last ship to carry the name Enterprise."

[Janet: I just hope there is no truth in any of the above.]



Star Trek IN THE NEWS

compiled by Janet Quarton



The purpose of this column is to let you know which magazines to look out for as well as letting you know some of what has been printed in the papers. Most magazines are available from the book shops in the info sheets and you can often get back issues of newspapers if you write to the publisher.

Shimerman (Quark), and part one of an interview with D C Fontana.

- STARLOG 197 December 1993. Includes an article on Famke Janssen who played Kamala in the TNG episode The Perfect Mate.

- TV ZONE 50 December 1993. Includes part two of an interview with D C Fontana and an episode listing for TNG season 7 and DS9 season 1.

- STARLOG 198 January 1994. Includes an article on Mike W Barr, Star Trek Comic writer.

- TV ZONE SPECIAL #11 Includes an article: The Return of I. Borg.

- TV ZONE 49 November 1993. Includes the conclusion of an interview with Armin

- ST:TNG POSTER BOOKS
 - Issue 58 - Article on Possession by aliens plus episode guides to Power Play and Ethics.
 - Issue 59 - Article on Romance in space plus episode guides to The Outcast and Cause and Effect.
 - Issue 60 - Article on Starfleet Academy plus

episode guides to The First Duty and Cost of Living.

- **STARBURST 184** Dec 1993. Includes an article on Siddig El Fadil - DS9's Dr Julian Bashir.

- **STARBURST YEARBOOK Special #18.** Includes articles on TNG Seasons 6 & 7 and DS9 Seasons 1 & 2

- **ST: THE NEXT GENERATION 26** (Starlog) Articles on Gabrielle Beaumont, Alex Singer, Peter Lauritson, Brent Spiner, Leonard Jon Crafoot, Alison Hack, Randee Russell, David Bischoff, Phil Lazebnik plus a Director's Index.

- Comic Buyers Guide #1043 12/11/93
Interesting article on Gene Roddenberry. When he stepped down as line producer during the 3rd season of ST, he was working on a screenplay of Tarzan. A lifelong Burroughs aficionado, Roddenberry went first to the original Tarzan novels. He cautioned against setting the character in modern times. (info Alan Stephen)

- "An MA but not as we know it, Jim" Star 22/9/93.

"Beam us up by degrees, Mr. Scott" Mail 22/9/93

Students can take a course in Science Fiction Studies at Liverpool University. 12 students have signed up for the course.

"3-D Look" Chicago Tribune 28/10/93.

Article about the DS9 costumes. There is an emphasis on unusual materials and 3-D textural effects, such as plastic tubing stitched through knits, channel-stitched leather, net fused with hard plastic forms, stamped leather and armour-like attire made of Latex. Robert Blackman is the rare breed of TV designer who churns out nearly every stitch of clothes from scratch, 40 new costumes per week.

Nearly all costumes are turned out at Paramount Studios by two dozen drapers, cutters, fitter and tailors who work exclusively on DS9 and TNG.

- "Life as we (almost) know it" The Sunday Times - The Culture 7/11/93. 4 pages

extracted from William Shatner's book, Star Trek Memories.

- "And now, Bar Trek" Today 16/11/93

Four of Star Trek's original cast are beaming up for an inter-galactic version of the TV hit Cheers. Jimmy Doohan, who played Scotty on the starship Enterprise will run a bar aboard a space station with Chekov, Mr Sulu and Lieutenant Uhura.

[This proposed series stars the actors - not the characters.]

- "Kirk's Lost Star-date" Sun 22/11/93

"Don't beam me up just yet, Scotty" Mail

Article about the proposed screening of Plato's Stepchildren. A BBC insider said, "I can't explain why it's not been shown. It's incredible when you consider the number of Star Trek seasons over the years."

- "The Luckiest Nerds in the World" Wired Nov 1993. Jeff Greenwald visits Rick Sternbach and Michael Okuda on the Enterprise sets.

- "There's real science behind Star Trek" Chicago Tribune 1/10/93

Two of Chicago's mainstream and respectable institutions of culture opened attractions in October based on Star Trek. One is "Star Trek: Federation Science" at the Museum of Science and Industry. The other is "Orion Rendezvous: A Star Trek Voyage of Discovery" at the Alder Planetarium.

"Trekker Treat" Chicago Tribune 27/10/93

The Museum of Science and Industry's Columbian Ball used the Star Trek exhibition as its theme. 40 displays keep in step with the museum's history of letting visitors interact with the exhibits.

Guests wearing tuxedos and evening gowns instead of Starfleet uniforms sat at Next Generation consoles, deflecting asteroids and establishing orbits on the "bridge", where a large screen included scenes from Star Trek adventures.

A "sick bay" gave an opportunity to analyze diseases, and two "transporter rooms" used video technology to make it seem as if people were being "beamed" to different worlds.

Costumes, props and makeup from the

series were on display.

The event is expected to raise \$200,000 for the museum's general fund.

- Entertainment Tonight (5/12/93) Article on Suzi Plakson (K'ehleyr) who was attending a convention in America and was talking to fans and asking them questions on various Trek aspects. Michael Dorn was also there (signing autographs as well). (info Russell Witheyman)

- "Woman to lead Trek" Today 7/12/93
"Star Trek... but not as we know it" Today 11/12/93

Articles about ST Voyager, saying that Amanda Donohoe, Susan Dey, Kirstie Alley and Cherie Lunghi are all in the running for the part of the female Captain.

- "Trek the High Road" Evening Times 15/12/93. A humorous story which seems to be an advert for the box of 6 wide-screen movies, which are in the shops at £54.00:

"Am I in these videos, Spock?"

"Yes, Captain. In fact, you're promoted to Admiral. And you have a son. And you direct one of the films."

"I do? I didn't know I had it in me!"

"I wouldn't get too cocky - I die, come back to life and still manage to direct two of them and..."

- "The Trek Goes On" Evening Times 15/9/93. Short piece about the TNG movie, saying that LeVar Burton got his script the week before and that the original cast will only feature in the opening sequence.

- "Kirk Has Trump Card"

Article saying Shatner wants £1 million to appear in STVII and that the studio has a teaser poster made up featuring the images of Shatner and Patrick Stewart. Apparently Paramount can play a waiting game because scenes with the original cast aren't due to be shot until the end of filming.



Cast & Crew NEWS

- **Patrick Stewart** plays Loomis, the head bad guy, in "Gunman", which was due for release on Nov 19th by Miramax Films. Stewart's character hires Dennis Leary's character to hunt down a Bulgarian smuggler (Christopher Lambert) and a New York hood (Mario Van Peebles) who have teamed up to search for \$400 mill treasure in the Amazon. (Info High Trek 29/10/93.)

"The Brit who baldly goes" Sunday Mirror 28/11/93. Article about Patrick Stewart and his plan to bring Christmas Carol to London.

"The unlikeliest Trekkie of all" Daily Mail 28/12/93. Interview with Patrick Stewart.

He opens in A Christmas Carol at the Old Vic today... It is his first time on the commercial stage in the West End, after more than 30 years in the business.

"I'm still the same actor I was when I was with the RSC but somehow other people's perceptions of me have changed.

I'm suddenly regarded as having commercial appeal. I've got Star Trek to thank for that.

"I do remember that, shortly before I went to California, we were discussing the transfer to the West End of a production I had been appearing in at the Old Vic. I remember sitting down to a meeting with the producer who said, 'We have to have one actor in this production that somebody has heard of.' That really hurt. I didn't feel that, after 27 years in the business, I should have to be sitting and listening to that kind of thing.

"But that was the reality in commercial terms. I had done all those years at the RSC and the National and I was still unknown. I was still Patrick who?"

All that has changed now, but Stewart has not taken the transformation too much to heart. He may be enjoying a different lifestyle but he has certainly not 'gone Hollywood'. He has clung stubbornly to his theatrical roots - running Shakespearian workshops for American actors and

performing A Christmas Carol on Broadway and all over America in addition to starring and directing Star Trek. If anything he has been working harder than ever to maintain his professional credibility. So hard, in fact, that he was rushed to hospital with a suspected heart attack.

"Good friends of mine in California have been prevailing on me to slow down. There was one dramatic night 18 months ago very later one Friday when I was directing and acting in the television show.

"I foolishly murmured to the assistant director that I had this pain in my chest and that it wouldn't go away. Ten minutes later I was strapped into a stretcher bed with a drip in my arm and was hurtled off to hospital.

"There's nothing quite like that to make you reflect in your life. I hadn't had a heart attack but I was suffering from exhaustion and the pains were just my body's way of telling me to slow down. I stopped working seven days a week."

"A spacemen at the court of King Charles" The Diary Christmas 1993. Interview with Patrick Stewart. On A Christmas Carol Patrick says, "I consider it to be the stage version of a marathon race."

"A light touch to illuminate the dark corners of Dickens." 30/12/93. A favourable review of Patrick's first night performance.

Patrick Stewart has not been on a West End stage since 1987, and the first night audience treated him to a standing ovation.

Though doubtless generous-hearted, and in the proper Christmas spirit, it was also thoroughly deserved.

The Times and Guardian also gave good reviews - in fact we haven't seen a bad one.

"Personal Voyage" Independent 31/12/93

Another favourable review...

"Dame Edna made a good crack on her recent Hollywood show when she described somehow as looking nearly as old as the second cast of Star Trek. But even the most confirmed non-Trekkie would have to grant that Stewart - on leave now from the Starship Enterprise - has, in the flesh, a spry agelessness that suits the multiple role-playing this piece demands...."

- **Jonathan Frakes** jokes that when he started on TNG he weighed 200 lbs and now he weighs 210 lbs.

When he directs a show, he tries to create an atmosphere in which the actors feel comfortable enough to experiment with a scene. This approach seems to work well. Several episodes Frakes has directed, notably The Offspring and The Drumhead, are considered by fans to be amongst the series' finest. "...I am proud and honoured that episodes I've directed are well regarded. When one goes well, it usually means I get to do another." Frakes directed Attached earlier in the season and has been assigned Sub Rosa which will air early in 1994.

Frakes met his wife, Genie Francis, while filming the telemovie Bare Essence (1982). The two fell in love while making North and South and married in 1985. Today they split their time between a house in Los Angeles and a Manhattan apartment.
(info High Trek 17/12/93)

- **Avery Brooks** reprises his role as Robert Ulrich's mysterious friend Hawk in the second of a series of Spenser: For Hire reunion movies. It is titled Spenser: Pale Kings and Princes

• **William Shatner**'s Tek World series will debut January 19, 1994 as the first of four scheduled two-hour movies on the Universal Action Network. Shatner directed the premier and guest appears in all four.
(info CCSTTG Enterprises)

• **James Doohan** will guest star on several episodes of the CBS soap, The Bold and the Beautiful, beginning December. He plays Damon Warwick, a 'dark-hearted Scotsman'.
(info CCSTTG Enterprises)

- **Walter Koenig** will appear in the Babylon 5 episode, Mind Wars, which is due to air in the Spring. His son, Andrew, guest starred in the DS9 episode, Sanctuary.

On February 19th Walter will perform with Mark Lenard in The Boys of Autumn, a play by Bernat Sabad about Tom Sawyer and Huck Finn as adults. Two performances will be given at the Hershey Theatre, PA.
(info CCSTTG Enterprises)

Walter is recovering well from his heart attack. He's busy with cons, acting projects, his comic "Raver" series and a novel - a psychological mystery titled, *The Man Who Wasn't There*.

Walter is waiting to see if and how the Trek classic cast will be incorporated into the

upcoming Next Gen movie. He says "...I'd be more comfortable with my place in Trek if I'd had more to do during my 25 years. The talents of the supporting actors were never explored. So I'm just along for the ride. If I was asked if I would do Trek again, I'd say yes." (info High Trek 3/12/1993)



MERCHANDISE



compiled by Janet Quarton

• BOOKS

- Dec **FIRESTORM** by L.A. Grag. (ST 68) The Enterprise is sent to mediate a dispute between a colony leader and a Federation geologist who claims that Rakata Mons, the largest volcano in the known galaxy, is in danger of erupting. Soon her worries are borne out and Kirk must lead his crew and the colonists in a frantic plan to escape the eruption and unravel Rakata Mons' deadly mystery.
- DARK MIRROR** by Diane Duane. (TNG HB) The crew of ST:TNG encounters its deadliest enemies... themselves!

From January Pocket Books takes over the UK publication of new ST and TNG books from Titan. Titan continues with the publication of Star Trek Adventures - the first UK publication of early ST books.

BOOK UPDATE

The following list of proposed books is from TV Zone 50 and is subject to change.

- Jan Starfleet Academy 3: Survival by Peter David.
ST Adventure 3: The Starless World by Gordan Ecklund.
- Feb STTNG The Devil's Heart
STDS9 5: Fallen Heroes by Daffyd AB Hugh.
STDS9 Young Adult 1: The Star Ghost by Brad Strickland.
ST Adventure 4: Perry's Planet by Jack C Haldeman.

- Mar STTNG: Sarek by A.C. Crispin h/b
STTNG 29: Sins of Commission by Susan Wright.
- Apr ST 69: Patrician Transgression by Hawke.
Star Trek Encyclopedia by Michael & Denise Okuda.
STDS9 Young Adult 2: Stowaways by Brad Strickland.
ST: Mudd's Angels
- May STTNG 30: Debtor's Planet by Thompson
STDS9 Betrayal by Louise Tilton
- June ST 70: Lost Years #3 Traitor Winds by L A Graft
Starfleet Academy 4: Capture the Flag by John Vornholt
STTNG Last episode novelisation (TBA)
ST Adventure 6: Trek to Madworld by Stephen Goldin
- July ST Shadows on the Sun by Michael Jan Friedman.
STTNG: Q-Squared by Peter David h/b?
- Aug STTNG: Foreign Foes by David Galanter
Starfleet Academy 5: Atlantis Station
ST Adventure 7: Planet of Judgement by Joe Haldeman.
- Sept STDS9 7: Warchild by Esther Freisner.
ST 71: Crossroads by Barbara Hamley.
- Oct STTNG: Requiem by Friedman & Ryan.

• VIDEO UPDATE

- Due January:
TNG Rightful Heir/Second Chances (75)
Timescape/Descent (76)
- DS9 The Forsaken/Dramatis Personae (9)
Duet/Hands of the Prophets (10)

Provisional Dates
 March TNG 77, DS9 11
 April TNG 78, DS9 12
 May TNG 79, DS9 13

On 31st January CIC are bringing out a Star Trek Trial Pack which contains the first video from the original series, TNG and DS9. Price £19.99.

- **THE OFFICIAL STAR TREK DRAUGHTS SET.** Franklin Mint. Twenty-four original draughtsmen sculptured in the image of the USS Enterprise or Klingon cruiser and bearing the official Federation or Klingon insignia. Minted in bronze. Accented with 22-carat gold or rich sterling silver. Price £245. Franklin Mint, Bramley Road, London SE6 2XG.

- **KLINGON BIRD OF PREY (TNG)** Franklin Mint. Just like the USS Enterprise, it has been faithfully created to match the original. Paramount Pictures approved the designs, based on the models used in the series. Individually cast in fine pewter. Hand-chased to refine the intricate design. Then hand rubbed to a rich patina to emphasis all the detail. Finally, emerald green crystals are set into the model. The

rich luster of the pewter is plated with accents of 22-carat gold. Price £195. Franklin Mint, Bramley Road, London SE6 2XG.

- **CULT TV - THE ESSENTIAL CRITICAL GUIDE** by Jon E Lewis and Penny Stempel. Pavilion £9.99.

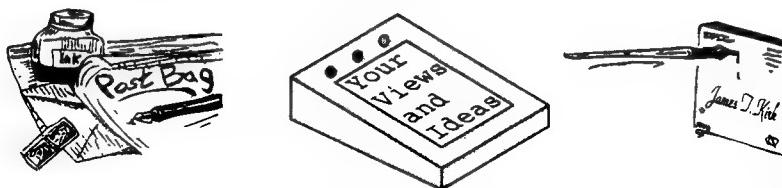
The book contains over 200 informative entries divided into six genres of Science Fiction, Crime and Mystery, Westerns, Children, Melodrama and Adventure and Comedy. Each entry gives full credits and transmission and production history, plus a critical review of the show that reveals many little known facts.

- Playmates

Toymaster toyshops have:
 Enterprise 1701 D @ £24.99

TNG Action Figure Assortment @ £4.99 each
 Personal badge communicator @ £5.49
 TNG Phaser @ £8.99.

- **ST:TNG 20th CENTURY COMPUTERS AND HOW THEY WORKED** by Jennifer Flynn. Alpha Books \$18.00. Data's guide to present day computers. It has received good reviews and hopefully will be available in the UK soon.



We welcome your letters of comment and discussion for this section on the understanding that they will be printed and may be edited for length or content at our discretion.

Some pointers: When referring to anything in a previous n/l make it clear what you are talking about for those who do not have that newsletter.

Keep your letters as short as possible - a maximum of 700-750 words or one of 'our' pages. If you find this impossible consider whether you should be writing an article instead. Longer letters will be edited for

length. Where more than one person responds to a question with similar answers we may edit out some of these just so that we can get more in the newsletter.

We encourage active discussion, but please try to avoid negative and aggressive letters. If you make a request which requires members to write to you please give your address.

Keep letters on a separate sheet from other submissions and put 'for postbag'.

- Judith Taylor - Leyland

Well there's not much to say about N/L 31's discussions; we all seem to be

agreeing with each other. Have any of you seen QVC's Star Trek hour? What a rip off - with p&p added on the item is the same price as in the shops, sometimes more expensive. (To anyone tempted, shop around first).

To Bill Murphy, re metaphasic shielding, maybe Dr Crusher has a secret hobby. re Tosk, 'may he die with honour' if you have seen 'Captive Pursuit' you would understand that his whole purpose for living is to 'die with honour' during the hunt making it as interesting as he possibly could.

To Bill Taylor, Re the 40 ships in Wolf 359, I agree, I think they made a terrible continuity error. Surely if the ships are going into battle, especially with a life form as malevolent as the Borg, they would evacuate all the civilians? I'm sorry, but I don't believe that they 'didn't have time'.

To everyone, the systematic negativities towards the original Star Trek series is not true to IDIC. If it hadn't been then neither would TNG or DS9. If it wasn't for the original series I would never have become interested in Star Treckdom, in fact as I remember the first time I saw a video for ST:TNG I thought, 'My God! They've got a bald man for the Captain, someone with a hair clip over his eyes and a kid as part of the crew!"

To Edward Woo, Re your comments on the Babel virus, by the time it was found to be an airborne virus, everyone on DS9 must have been contaminated. Odo didn't contract it because his brain and synaptic patterns are different, Quark didn't get it because as he said Ferengi have a very strong immune system. What I am surprised about is that Dr Bashir didn't look at Quark to see how his immune system combated the virus, and developed a serum from that. Re hobbies and Dax, if you had your dream version of the woman you fancy walking around so that theforesaid woman could see her, wouldn't you cool it? I mean how would you like it if she kept reminding you about it all the time? Re Uhura and Chekov mistaking the USS Ranger for the Enterprise, how could they do this, as I remember the Enterprise had ENTERPRISE written on it in big letters.

To Marie I J Park, re the Deltaan issue if you read the book of ST:TMP it implies that all Deltaans have no hair, indeed I thought that both male and females were hairless, it also states so in the life form guide; maybe like the Klingons it depends on where they come from on the planet. I agree with your comments on Picard in 'Chains of Command' - the episode did bring down the superman image of Picard with a bump. I have resolved never to see the episodes again; the suffering that was shown rocked me to my foundations. What also 'got' to me was the way that they showed the Cardassians, not just 'The Enemy' but as actual beings with a society similar to our own. The Cardassian (I'm sorry I've forgotten his name) is devoted to his daughter and considers us the unfeeling enemy, and so feels justified in trapping and torturing the Captain of the Federation's flagship, bending him to his will so that he can show that he is stronger than the Federation.

To Gratienne Vandekerhove, Yes Troi has been taught to screen out emotions; on Betazed they are taught at an early age how to control their powers and how to maintain her own identity when she is bombarded with emotions from the crew. She can send to other telepaths, she is also very sensitive to people she knows well (she can send to Riker).

To Linda Pengelly, Re Brent and his guitar, he can play but very badly; he said so at one of his American conventions (I have the audio). Try getting in touch with Taruka Quauhtezcatl about 'Old Yellow Eyes'

To Cris Coxon, re the Bajoran phaser, try 'Dramatis Personae'; you get a good look at one, Kira points it at Sisko.

• Clive Viagas - Gibraltar

I envy the members living in the UK where they can buy Trek merchandise very easily. If you can't find what you are looking for at one shop you get onto a bus and buy it from another. In my case I have to rely on mail order companies; the only merchandise you can find in Gib are videos and kit models. It's expensive ordering books, posters, etc because of postage (double for

airmail, but worth every penny).

I would like to recommend two mail order companies if I may, for service (which in my case takes about 10 - 15 days) and prices; the Sheffield Space Centre & Kathie's Comics.

I also watched Star Trek on the Spanish regional TV channel 'Canal Sur' but they stopped screening it a month ago without any explanations. Another Spanish channel 'Antena 3' have now started showing DS9. They only showed the first two episodes about three weeks ago, but I believe it's not very popular across the border (shame on them!). The Spanish voices they put on the characters do not suit them. They sound funny!

Re zine size - Having received Make It So No 14 (A4) and 15 & 16 (A5), I prefer the new size - easier to hide when my boss comes into my office! Seriously, I don't mind which size they are, both are great.

Are there any more Gibraltarian members, or am I the only one? [Sheila - Currently you're the only one, though there have been others in the past, forces personnel based there.]

• Anne Gregory - Derbyshire

Enterprise-Log Entries 90 is the first fanzine I have ever bought and I thought that with fans writing the stories that they wouldn't be very good.

Well, how wrong can you be? I really enjoyed reading my first fanzine, and to everyone who wrote the stories and poems - well done! The quality of the stories is just as good as any paperback on sale today.

• Ruth Mellor - Shrewsbury

Re The Outcast - As a Lesbian, I was pleased with this episode. It was designed to get people thinking and see parallels with life and prejudices against several differences today.

I also liked The Host, but was disappointed with the ending, as you may imagine. I can commiserate with Bev,

though, as however perfect it may seem to me, if my girl friend suddenly changed sex on me I would be unable to love her the same way, however much I'd like to.

I found the end of Dax heartwarming, where there is just a touch on the cheek from one past lover to another, which obviously meant so much to each of them. Gender didn't matter to either at that moment.

Re A5 zines - Personally I don't mind them going down in size especially if it means more people can enjoy them. The one negative aspect is the reduction of quality of reproduction of some artwork. It doesn't affect me, as ink illos reduce well, but work such as Maxine's in MIS 17 (an excellent fanzine) which I presume are pencil loses something because of the medium.

To Sheila - Any chance of a DS9 fanzine? [Sheila - Re artwork - Because we're working on a shoestring, financially, we can't afford the high quality plates necessary to reproduce pencil and fine shading - some detail is inevitably lost by using cheaper plates. This has nothing to do with the smaller size - indeed, I think the loss of detail is more marked in the A4 size. Ink line without too much shading is the best medium for fanzine art. Re a DS9 zine - we're willing to consider submissions (send them to me) but to date we've had none. If and when we get enough submissions, we'll do a DS9 zine.]

• Sheila Clark - Dundee

To Adam North - Re Chekov knowing Khan. Khan appeared in a first season episode and Chekov was not part of the crew until the second season - therefore Khan could not have met Chekov on the Enterprise, but then Chekov shouldn't have known anything about Khan's group either if the whole incident was hushed up, as is implied in the movie. You can argue a way round it (eg Chekov was on the night shift (or scrubbing toilets) during season 1) but you shouldn't have to. It's one of the many holes in the plot that completely spoiled TWOK for me and make it, for me, the poorest of the 6 movies.

To Bernardo Carmo - Re 'hearing through vacuum' - Gene Roddenberry was perfectly aware that nobody could hear sound in space, but he discovered that unless the sound effect was included, no 20th century audience could accept that speed was involved. He therefore invoked artistic licence for that, for seeing things that should have been invisible, for the ship rocking to a near miss (which in airless space wouldn't happen) etc.

To Bill Taylor - Courtesy of DS9, we know of one child who was on a ship at Wolf 359 and survived; Jake Sisko. However, considering the slaughter, logic says that pretty well all the children on any of the ships must have died.

Re comics - I'm not a comics fan myself - I think that the graphic novel (or booklet) is like a storyboard; the pictures give a rough idea of the setting, etc - but I believe it needs words (and plenty of them) to develop a story fully and see inside the characters' minds. Having said that, I'm willing to accept that there are many adults who find the graphic presentation interesting and attractive. I think, though, that the opinion as presented by Dave Styles and Neil Barrett is at least in part coloured by referring to the graphic booklet as a 'comic'. For many of us, the word 'comic' conjures up pictures of the Dandy or the Beano - ie something aimed specifically at children. I feel there should be another term for graphic stories aimed at adults - and 'graphic novel' isn't it.

• Lloyd Lewis - Cardiff

Hi! I'm back, or 'tadaima!' as my Japanese friends would say. Helen, Taruka and Nina, I will write as soon as my university work is under way, letting you know what's happened. If I owe anyone else a letter, I'm afraid that, paradoxically, you will have to write me to remind me!

As young Walter declines our gifts/flowers/etc, I have donated £15 in his name to the NSPCC. Please think about it - or any other worthwhile charity.

I've just noticed that this is too late for N/L 31 - you'll all have to look back an extra

issue to see what I'm talking about.

To Anne-Marie Flowers - If this has already been answered Janet will cut it so you'll never read it. Otherwise - certain elements of the holodeck are provided by transporter technology, not holograms, so they would be just as real outside as in.

Also, my son is seven, and my wife (from whom I am separated) allows him to watch TV in his bedroom, seemingly without regulation. I have, of course, complained, but it really does not seem to cause him any problems - I hope! I may change my mind when I see the episode, not that I'll be listened to anyway.

To Dave Houston/Valerie Piacentini - Re chops. How about giving up primitive customs like meat eating?

To Neil J Barrett - I think you've answered your own question. Also, as far as 'graphic novels' are concerned, I'd say try them before you criticise. As I am working on my third degree and have had twenty years in responsible positions in industry I don't think I could be accused of having a short attention span, and as I read £30 - £50 worth of written work every week and write my own stories, neither could I be accused of not wanting to rely on my own imagination. If that were the case then why are we watching TV/videos instead of reading books? I realise that I am replying to your reply to Dave Styles - nuff said. Recommend Watchmen.

To Jamie Boast - Please read the Ladybird Book of Science.

• Anne McKay - East Kilbride

Re the new A5 format. I enjoy the zines so much and find them to be of such a consistently high standard that I would be happy to get them in any size. However, I must say that I was very pleasantly surprised at the new price of £2.50, and although I didn't expect the new size to make any impression whatsoever, I found that I actually preferred the A5 format, if for no other reason than it is easier to hold while drinking tea.

I hope the new price will encourage first time zine buyers. Initially it was the price that put me off them; I wasn't prepared to spend £4 on something I wasn't sure I would enjoy. As a result, I stuck to the 'official' books for a long time. When I bought my first zine from ScoTpess it made me realise what was missing from so many of the 'official' books. The fanwriters know what they are writing about; their Enterprise crew is the same one that I know and enjoy so much, not the strangers who often behave so out of character in a lot of the books.

I wholeheartedly approve of the new size and price.

• John Philpott - Welling, Kent

It was with some surprise, when reading a Convention listing for 1994, I noticed it had been arranged for T'Kon to run against the 45th British Easter Convention. I was under the impression that it had been generally accepted that no media conventions would run against the British Easter Conventions as their aim is to run a convention for all areas of fandom - hence the cancelling of the old Elvedore Media Easter Conventions. Unification, which was held over Easter this year (1993), has changed its dates for 1994 to avoid a clash. The 1994 Eastercon is in Liverpool, so there is no need for an alternative. (One thing noted about Eastercon in Jersey 1993 was a large group of Klingons, so it is for Star Trek fans. Indeed, two of the main guests in 1994 are Diane Duane and Peter Morwood, well-known for their Star Trek connections.)

The year before a British Worldcon is not the time to be reopening old divisions in British fandom that were thought to have been long healed. The British Eastercon is the coming together of fans from all areas of fandom, and it is wrong for anyone to try to undermine this unity. Intersection in Glasgow 1995 will be that same coming together of fans from all round the world and all areas of fandom, hence, I believe, no British Trek convention in August 1995 as an acceptance of that unity.

I repeat, to run a convention against the British Eastercon, in view of what it

represents, is wrong. I hope the T'Kon committee have not done this out of malice but merely a lack of thought.

[Sheila - Because of Christmas and having to compile this N/L very early in January, we were unable to contact the T'Kon committee for a comment on this letter; however, we believe that T'Kon's date was selected to let them stay clear of the May Trek convention; and that it clashes with Eastercon was done not out of malice or even lack of thought, but out of sheer ignorance of Eastercon's date/venue - and possibly even out of ignorance that there is such a thing as Eastercon at all! Not all Trek fans are also SF fans, and even those of us who like SF don't necessarily have any contact with SF fandom. From my own point of view, although I've been to a couple of Eastercons (in Glasgow), for two or three years now I've seen no advertising for Eastercon at all therefore didn't know where it was being held - or even if there still was an Eastercon. This lack of advertising of an SF con in Trek circles is also showing up with Worldcon 1995 (is that Intersection?); in spite of all our attempts over the past 6 - 9 months to get more information so that we can advertise it, all we've heard so far, we've heard from a friend.]

• Maria Nausch - Vienna

My congratulations on another well-done newsletter, full of information and comments to make one think. Most of the regular writers in the postbag section are by now familiar with me, and I'd like to thank you all for your witty, thought-provoking and friendly discussions. If I had more time I would join your debates more often, and I would like to meet some of you at a convention sooner or later. Maybe in 1994?

This year I went to Contagion in Glasgow where I met Sheila and introduced the 'Prosbear' to her. It was a great experience, especially for the bear, for it was his first convention (though not mine!) Although the bear knew no-one he got a lot of attention; even Richard Arnold talked to him. So he would like to encourage all those among you who plan to start a career as convention-goer in the neat future. It's not

that difficult to make new friends, you just have to be open-minded, communicative (shyness might be a handicap) and do something to attract people's attention, like entering a competition, wearing a uniform, participating in any activity. If you follow this advice you might even end up on the con video (says the Prosbear).

Anyone coming to Contagion '94? Be sure to say hello to that bear of mine; he would like to help first-timers get in touch with fellow Trekkers! I think it's a shame that some fans have these problems of feeling isolated at a con. Aren't we all believing in the philosophy of IDIC? How can we then leave out our colleagues from part of the fun, by forming closed groups?

- **Alan Stephen - Bridge of Don, Aberdeen**
"What's in a name?" - Shakespeare;
Romeo & Juliet.

Quite a lot, according to the furore created by Dave Styles Neil Barrett & Rebekah Owens! I dislike the misnomer 'graphic novel' as well; I am of the opinion that this euphemism was created by some aden or PR person. Having said all that, there are some graphic novels worthy of the title - I listed them previously, and I honestly think that before expressing an erroneous opinion you should read them. To call the work of Neil Gaiman, Art Speigelman and Al Davison 'puerile', 'simplistic', is - well - nonsense. I'm not even certain that graphic novels are that popular, and regarding the 'lessening desire/ability to rely on one's imagination to conjure up an image' - does that mean we should not go to the movies? That visual arts are of less worth than the written word? What foolishness. As I said before, this newsletter deals with Star Trek, not the work of Albert Camus.

If society has degenerated at all, the blame lies elsewhere. I lay it at the door of TV, overly violent films, videos, video games, Rap music, an education system starved of funds, parents who don't care. How many parents today read to their children? Not many, I suspect.

To Rebekah Owens - Where did I say

comics are literature? Comics are not literature. Neither - sorry if I'm shattering any illusions of grandeur here - are Star Trek books. What I am saying is that there are some comic book publications that are worthy of attention. I don't believe anyone could say that Walt Whitman and Jean Genet are not worthwhile - and regarding Booker Prize winners, I'd sooner read Roddy Doyle than any Star Trek book any day.

In closing - Ray Bradbury, without doubt one of the 20th century's greatest writers, has consistently since the 1950s allowed his stories to be adapted into the comic book format, and if that's all right with him, it's all right with me.

• Martin Helsdon - Chelmsford

The discussion about galactic directions and the compass are missing the mark - in fact, the co-ordinate system being employed is fairly standard when describing relative astronomical position in the galaxy. If you treat the galaxy like a globe, then it has a north and a south pole, above and below the centre of the galaxy. The plane of the galactic 'lens' is effectively the equator. You derive east and west from the direction of spin, like the Earth, so spinward is east and anti-spinward is west. The only additional 'directions' you need are coreward and anti-coreward to describe how near or far from the galactic centre an object is. This has nothing to do with a galactic magnetic field.

It's also fairly safe to assume that Starfleet divides the galaxy into eight quadrants (four quarters of the sky seen from two hemispheres). When the characters talk about events affecting the entire quadrant they are talking about 12.5% of the galaxy - neatly enough, the 'explored' portion. The maps that appear in the background of ST:TNG episodes suggest that the galaxy is divided into sectors like a floppy disc... Now as Sector 000 (according to The Best of Both Worlds) contains Earth, it is safe to assume that the equivalent of the terrestrial Greenwich Meridian is the position of Earth, relative to the galactic centre.

Is fandom really as polarised as some letters suggest? It's easy enough to favour

one incarnation of Star Trek over another, but there seem to be some sweeping generalisations being made. Some episodes of the original are poor, some episodes of TNG are disappointing, some episodes of DS9 are weak - and the descriptions can be applied to any series. They are all made to a tight deadline, with one eye on the clock and another on the cost. Despite that, with surprising frequency the creative mix works. The writing, acting, the special effects, the makeup, the music... Very often there is an episode that teaches out and grabs you. Some don't, and some of that is a personal thing, how you relate to it. It's one of the strengths of the genre (and ST is a genre in its own right) that it appeals to different people in different ways.

Rebekah Owens' interpretation of Dr Soong's motives is an interesting example of how the humanist parables of Star Trek can be adapted to different viewpoints. Perhaps we can look forward to an analysis of Dr Crusher's errors in bringing up Wesley to demonstrate the failures of the single female parent? After all it was only when a suitable father figure in the form of Captain Picard appeared that he changed from a spoiled obnoxious brat to a potential officer - and lapsed back to type in First Duty without Picard's presence. Seriously, Star Trek has a very strong sense of morality, but that is not tied to any particular ethic, more a sense of dharma.

Soong is never criticised by his peers, and his actions and regrets were very Human. Given the technology of his era, if he had simply wanted a son, he could probably have changed sex or created a clone of himself. Data and Lore are something very different, much more complex and much more difficult to make than a surrogate offspring. Lore was the victim of error; Soong tried for too much too soon. Data, however, is designed to expand slowly in ability and conscienteness - note the 'dream chips' prematurely activated. It seems rather than make an idealised copy of himself Soong was attempting to create something new, a being that would explore and grow into the world in a completely different way. As this embodies the highest principles of IDIC he

cannot be criticised for the attempt. His failures were 'Human', not gender related!

• Karen Davies - Birmingham

I would like to add my two-pennorth to the zines or novels debate. Personally, I like both; there are good and bad stories from both sides. The advantage of zines is that the fan-writers more often get the characterisations right, and they write romantic stories, my favourite being Picard/Beverly ones - whereas the novel writers tend to stick to adventure stories. I also can't see any problems with the new A5 zines which are, if I'm not mistaken, the same size as the newsletter, and nobody complains about that.

To James Connolly - The line which makes me cringe is from Brothers, and I believe spoils an otherwise brilliant episode. It's Riker at the end; when demanding an explanation from Data and Dr Soong, he appears to have forgotten all about Lore. For God's sake, Riker is sooo thick sometimes, it makes me wonder how he ever made it to First Officer! If I was Captain, I'd have demoted him to Ensign and made Data my First Officer!

Finally, I would like to say to Jennifer Cobbing - you have the nerve to accuse TNG fans of slagging off Classic Trek fans. I thought it was the other way round. I also was at Midcon and during the entire weekend we had to endure derogatory remarks about TNG from a particular committee member every time she appeared on stage. I can't argue that there weren't many Classic Trek episodes shown; in fact, there wasn't a great deal of TNG or DS9 either - the only ones I saw were Descent II and Liaisons (which I was very grateful for). And at 35, by no stretch of the imagination can I be thought of as a youth. I'm afraid it is people like you who are being rude and intolerant.

I can see such a rift developing in fandom that it is going to come to separate cons, which is very sad indeed.

• Nanaki Kaur - Birmingham

To Gratienne Vandekerkhove - You are correct that Deanna Troi is an empath and

can sense the emotions of other beings. To answer your question, she is able to separate herself from the outpouring of emotions by raising mental shields or by not opening her mind (Encounter at Farpoint). We have seen that she is also able to direct her empathy to specific people, blocking out others. All of this is explained in Rebecca Neanson's 'Guises of the Mind', which in my opinion is an excellent TNG novel.

Your comments about Troi's abilities in Violation, I do not agree with. Deanna is a very sensitive and discreet person and would not use her abilities to violate anyone. However, I do understand what you mean and I think I would be a little uncomfortable with a full telepath - after all, they can read your every thought!

To Jennifer Cobbing - I was surprised by your article in N/L 31. My first encounter with Star Trek was TNG, and since then I've been hooked and consider myself a true TNG fan. I was surprised to learn how some TNG fans treat CT fans. I love Star Trek because of the message it carries, to be tolerant of other people's beliefs and to live together in harmony. So I was shocked that any Star Trek (in any form) fan would be so inconsiderate and intolerant towards CT fans. After all, without CT there would be no TNG or DS9.

• Ewan Chalmers - New Elgin, Moray

To Jason Wells - Re the possible recasting of TNG. It's a good idea, but the problem I see is that a recast crew would be continually compared to the old. I know it's maybe the same thing as the TNG crew being compared to the Classic crew, but at least in a new series, new characters can develop on their own without referring back to previous events. (N/L 31 P 23)

To Taruka Quauhtezcatl - I take your point about some ST novels not being of such high quality, but let's be honest, neither have some ST episodes (eg Shades of Grey). (N/L 31 P 28)

• Kim Fisher - Willenhall, W Midlands

To Brenda Allan & James Connarty - Re holodeck. In the book Reunion, Worf

gives a very good explanation of how the holodecks work. If somebody is jogging then the electromagnetic fields that make up the floor flow in the opposite direction, which gives the jogger the illusion that they are moving forward.

If a second person is in the holodeck, then the millions of omni-directional holo diodes in the wall dictate how other objects are seen. Basically these diodes manipulate your senses so you are given the illusion that the other people are further away than in reality.

To Liz Caldwell & Gary Heron - I am very disappointed with DS9. As far as I can tell, Kira is a totally useless character. We've only really seen two Bajorans, Kira and Ro. Aren't they similar? All that we can tell is that Bajorans are very stubborn.

• Anne Gregory - Swadlincote, Derbyshire

To Mel Daines - I'm a devoted fan of Bill Shatner, and how uplifting it was to read your letter. You are so lucky to have met Bill, not once but many times. So many people love to put Bill down even though they have never met him, but you can say you've met Bill and he's easy to talk to and does have time for his fans. Next time you plan to meet Bill, any chance of me coming along?

To Irene Ambrose - I was interested in finding out more about Bill's CD 'The Transformed Man'. It is an acquired taste, as Janet said, but I soon got the taste and I love it. My favourite track is 'Elegy for the Brave'. Fellow Shatner fans, what is your favourite track on the CD? Irene, go out and buy a copy of 'The Transformed Man' - I'm sure you'll enjoy it.

William Shatner - Happy Birthday for March 22 from your devoted fan Anne Gregory.

• Sarah Mitchell - Whitchurch, Shropshire

Re comic books/graphic novels. Having just read Dave Styles' article 'Graphic Novel? - Comic!' in N/L 31, I felt moved to write to the postbag for the first time.

I agree with part of Dave's article. Yes,

graphic novels are comics, and most graphic novels will admit to being reprints of comics (for example, The Modula Imperative) but there is no way I can agree with the rest of Dave's comment - "It is a sad indictment of our society that literature has degenerated to a point where we pretend comics are novels, in order to hide our illiteracy."

This simply isn't true and I'm prepared to give an example that proves how inaccurate Dave Styles' article is.

A couple of newsletters ago, a discussion began as to whether Kirk was right to destroy Vaal in the original series episode The Apple. Now I'm sure Dave Styles would hesitate before calling IDIC members 'illiterate', yet the same topic was raised in the first series of DC Star Trek comics, episodes 44 and 45, which were published in November and December of 1987.

Roughly twenty years after the Enterprise's first visit to Gamma Trianguli VI, James Kirk and the rest of the crew return to the planet and find it in very bad shape, with civil war in progress between the believers of Vaal and those who pray to the gods Kirk, Spock and McCoy! If you wish to know the rest of the story I suggest you get hold of copies, as I don't want to ruin the story. I will, however, tell you Kirk's log entry after the mission.

"Captain's Log, Stardate 89623.7. Several years ago I made a serious error in judgement about the people of Gamma Trianguli VI - Mr Spock went on the record opposing my decisions here. It took him roughly twenty years and a lot of guts to convince me I was wrong... and for the record, I was very, very wrong. Gamma Trianguli is now in fine shape."

We are still arguing over this issue six years later, which proves what a valid point the comic raised - not the sort of issue to be raised by something designed to hide 'our illiteracy'.

To Marie Park - Kirk may have left McCoy in charge in Doctor's Orders, but this

was only because McCoy had been complaining about the way the Enterprise was being run, and because he'd declared that everyone wants 'some other job'. This was not a common occurrence. It must also be remembered that this book isn't official Trek.

• Jo Healey - London

I've just finished reading the latest DS9 novel, The Big Game, and somehow found myself attracted to Dr Bashir wearing a black tuxedo!

• Philippa Timms - Isle of Wight

To Dave Styles - About comics - I do not see where subtitles and audio books come in. For a start, ST films are films for all the family, from 3 to 300 (if you count Vulcans). Those at one end of the scale have yet to learn how to read, those at the other could well be suffering from sight loss or blurred vision. Reading small text could also be a headache for those of us who do suffer from acute headaches anyway. Audio books are not for those of us who cannot read, they are for those of us who cannot see. Have you not heard of talking books for the blind? Guide dogs are not the only thing these people need or want. Also I do not see how reading a comic means that our whole social structure is breaking down. I do agree we could be doing better as a race (we always could) but even in the Trek universe things are not perfect. Where was the caring hand when the Cardassians were starving? Picard knew what they were like before their militia took over, so where was the aid? Did the Federation just turn a blind eye? Doing that is the worst thing that could be done, and the worst thing that Humans do - pretend that these situations do not exist and hope that they go away. For the most part they just get worse. As for me and comics? I invest in them; some, after a time, can be worth quite a bit more than you paid for them. I do not have to read much to understand that bit. When Superman died, the prices of back issues hit the roof!

To Dave Flack & Bernardo Carmo - As in all of the best Star Trek episodes, when the crew are stuck they ask the computer. It explains base 3 quite well and it gives a

lowdown on all finer points of Trek, even the Vulcan death grip! A hint for the hijacked - look on the floor in the corridor. Spock has never been able to repair the transporter for me. I expect he was feeling unwell that day. Charge the device like the phaser, then you should be able to get through the door. Remember to get Spock to rescue the prisoners first or you will be looking at a major point loss!

• Gill Marks - Oxford

I thoroughly enjoyed reading my first zines (Log Entries 90 and Make It So 15). Plenty of action, tension and laughs - other members, please give them a go.

To Baerbel Schmidt - I think that common sense, keeping calm in a crisis and being able to deal with all kinds of people are vital command qualities, as embodied in Captain Picard. I also think being able to run a home, hold down a paid job and act the part of peacemaker between warring kids (far more taxing than mere aliens) would make any mum find running a Starship child's play in comparison!

To Sarah Irons - I agree with you about Bill Shatner and Captain Kirk. It was certainly his enthusiastic action-man style which hooked me at the tender age of 6. That and Spock's greenish skin, as CT was the first programme I saw on a colour TV!

• Kathleen Glancy - Edinburgh

Doesn't this putative ST plot, where Kirk is captured by bounty hunters and cryogenically frozen call to mind certain scenes in The Empire Strikes Back? And is there going to be *any* member of the original crew who *hasn't* somehow survived unchanged into the time of TNG (except McCoy, if that was indeed him, who got there one day at a time getting steadily older). I could accept one such incident, but Scotty used that up. Any more begins to stretch credibility.

To Gloria Fry - I do believe you have cracked it on the question of public derision of the aging original cast's continued appearance in action roles. They do have to contend with perpetual showing of them in

their prime. It was the Queen Mother who refused to have her official photographs touched up - it would, she said, only disappoint people who saw her in the flesh. She did not, of course, have to content with the regular airing of pictures of her aged 35, and the original cast does. Patrick Stewart, on the other hand, strikes me as one of those people who never really looked very young (aided by early hair loss) but as a result go on looking much the same well into late middle age.

To Dave Styles - I fear you may have inadvertently offended far more people by your explanation of your remarks on graphic novels (I agree with you about declining standards of literacy - I used to work in Students' Awards, and many would-be graduates had already had to get their parents to fill in their forms) than were upset by the original comments. Your comment on religion could be read to mean you think anyone who believes in any religion (except those who turn Star Trek into a pseudo-religion) is inadequate. I'm sure such a sweeping condemnation is not what you intended at all, only a reflection of what clearly was an unhappy experience of one particular religious group. I hope any born-again Christians in the membership will remember who advocated turning the other cheek, any Muslims will refrain from declaring a fatwa against you, and any witches (it's a registered church, at least in the USA) will refrain from casting spells on you.

Re my Shatner/Superman piece, I have subsequently been told that Shatner was somewhat older than 6 when the first Superman comic, much less the radio show, came out. Therefore, either his story was fiction or it was true but he was 8 or 9, not 6. The former seems likely, since he has never tried, to his credit, to pretend to be any younger than he is. I suppose he *might* have fudged his age, if the story was true, because it was a silly thing to do and the older you were when you did it the sillier it was.

• Lesley Arrowsmith - Hay-on Wye,
Hereford

First of all, thanks to David Flack, Janet

and Taruka Quauhtezcatl for the embroidery info.

To James Connarty - There is, or was, a ST role-playing game which was around before TNG. It was called Star Trek the Role Playing Game and the makers are FASA Corporation, PO Box 6930, Chicago, Ill 60680-6930, USA. Their products should be available in any good RPG shop. I have a few modules of the game, but not, unfortunately, the bet that tells you how to roll a character.

To Taruka Quauhtezcatl - I too hated Pawns and Symbols. It just wasn't the Trek universe as I know it. There was all that stuff about hostages, wasn't there, which is just not the way the Federation does business.

• Michelle Oldroyd - Middlesex

To Gratienné Vandekerhove - Troi is able to raise mental shields to block out any emotions and/or telepathic voices coming from others. A Betazoid who couldn't do this would not be able to survive as the pressure would be too much to bear (as in Tin Man). She can concentrate just on the person she is helping. We have seen this before, most notably in Night Terrors.

A Betazoid's greatest fear is to 'lose themselves'. This can happen if there is an overwhelming amount of empathic or telepathic transmission from another person/people.

Deanna would never force her way into someone's mind. She would never try to probe into someone's mind if they objected in any way.

To anyone - In the 3rd season episode The Enemy, the Romulans crossed over into Federation space. Yet in Face of the Enemy they clearly needed access codes to do so. Why is this?

I have just finished MAB and agree with Stephen Shaw. This is the first zine I have read, and it was excellent, of much better quality than many of the novels I have read.

Lastly, does anyone know where I could get a tricorder? I have tried various mail order companies, but I still cannot get hold of one. If you can help, please contact me at 7 Carterhatch Rd, Enfield Highway, Middx EN3 5LS.

• Chris C Bailey - Didcot, Oxon

Re comments made in N/L 31.

To Philip Morley & Charles McWhan (p 26) - I found the 6th season stardates very useful. LESSONS stardate is 46693.1. You seem to have forgotten in your list the following 6th season episodes - Chain of Command Part 2 and Face of the Enemy.

To Taruka Quauhtezcatl - (P26) Re Pawns and Symbols. I must disagree with you when you say that you cannot accept this novel as Trek, as it certainly is, in my opinion! I originally reviewed it for Paperback Inferno (Feb/March 1991, issue 88) and have read it twice since then. I found it quite enjoyable, as it effectively brought both Kirk and Kang face to face again, the first time being, of course, in the classic episode Day of the Dove (which incidentally the BBC screened 1/12/93). I think Marysia Kolodziej (P20) has the right answer when she says that it's down to the individual Trekkie to accept what they see as 'official' Trek.

To Brenda Allan (P46) - Re 'replicator' technology. What would really make my day when humanity eventually achieves this technology, would be the permanent abolition of the need to farm and kill innocent animals/plant life for Human/animal consumption. The ultimate in artificial food production, with the minimum of fuss!

To Moira Warburton (P49) - Basically, milliseconds after the USS Reliant exploded deep within the Mutara Nebula (a vast cloud of dust particles light-years across), the shock waves set up a rapid chain reaction that resulted in everything imploding (exploding inwards!!), aided by gravity, to form the planet Genesis. Of course, in 'reality', it is much more complicated, but that's the best I can do...

To Dave Styles (P70) - Re your article

Graphic Novel - Comic!. Since I feel somewhat responsible for this good-natured argument concerning (so-called) graphic novels, which basically started as a result of The Star Lost review (N/L 28 P 83), views which I stand by, I thought that I should briefly comment further. I find myself in agreement with much that you have said, Dave, and could not have put the point across any better myself. Take heart, you have at least *one* supporter...

• **Niel J Humphreys - Aberystwyth**

Re holodecks - Having followed the discussion about scrolling and static holodecks in detail, I have a point that could dismiss either of these suppositions. I refer to the TNG episode Ship in a Bottle. Moriarty has programmed a fake Enterprise into the holodeck, with fake crew, etc, except for Picard, Data and Barclay. However, there are many times when the three 'captives' are at completely different sections of the Enterprise. A scrolling holodeck could explain one of a group of characters moving about the ship but the holodeck is just not as large as the entire ship! Can anyone offer any explanation?

To Edwin Yau - Re list of ST:TNG season 7 episodes (N/L 31) I have a different list of titles of episodes, given to me by someone who got them from family in USA - can you (or anyone) shed any light on their origin. These are -

Descent Part 2; Apotheosis; The Innocent Ones; With Friends Like These; The Knife; Infinite Lies; Finite Truth (2-parter); Persistence of Vision (2-parter); Doom Ship; The Synthetic Man; Dust of Forever; Historical Precedent; Roundabout; Passages; Flight of the Damned; My Enemy, My Love; The Ultimatum; Sight Unseen; The Coldest Dish; A Manner of Means; Downfall; Resolution; The Backlash Effect; and finally All Good Things.

[Sheila - The first ten titles of the list in N/L 31 are definitely correct. However, titles are often changed between the original script and the final aired episode, and the list you have could be made up of original titles which were subsequently changed, wherever

your friend's family got them from.]

• **Stephen Shaw - Stockport**

At last tracked down Sheila's zine 'Something Hidden' - very enjoyable and well worthy of a reprint with modern (legible) computer print! My copy is quite faint in places.

Old time printers used to make small type more legible by using wider spacing between lines; it turns out that given a particular line spacing it is easier to read SMALLER type! Sometimes only a marginal increase would be used (lines at 10 point spacing with type at 9 point, for example).

[Janet - *Something Hidden was typed on stencil and printed on a duplicator. Regarding print size - this newsletter masters are printed at A4 with 12pt font size and 14pt line spacing. For MIS 18 I increased the print to 13pt font with 15pt line spacing. I also had to double column the zine or lose 12 pages.]*

I noticed some contributors giving away zines... nice idea! The best I can get on my SF collection is 20p per book, BUT they would then be kept under damp conditions, probably left in the rain, and likely pulped. Not a nice fate for books you have enjoyed. So if any IDIC reader has any interest in old time SF (we are talking about books published mostly in the 50s and 60s here!) - they are free!! All I need is the postage plus say 50p to packing. As the weights are very variable (85gr to 370gr!) I can't really give a price per book, but will make up a parcel to the amount sent. Average books seem to be around 120gr. 10 Alstone Rd, Stockport, Cheshire SK4 5AH

• **Adam J North - Norwich**

What's going on? In my last letter SOMEONE typed STVETVH instead of STVI:TUC. I want everyone to know it wasn't my mistake! [Sheila - Oh, dear. I don't say I have a total blind spot over VI and IV in Roman numerals - but I do dislike these intensely (you have no idea the trouble I have getting clocks and watches with proper numbers, NOT Roman ones!) and my mind must have misidentified it.]

To Edward Woo - In Babel, wearing oxygen/air tanks would be pointless, because by the time they knew the virus was airborne, it was already in their bodies, already working on them.

Are there any other Trekkers in Norwich? The people I know who are are me and my Mum! If there are, please drop me a line at 88 Aylsham Rd, Norwich, Norfolk, NR3 2HN. (Anyone else is welcome to drop me a line too.)

Help! To anyone who has the Star Trek game for Gameboy - I still haven't got past the asteroid belt. If anyone can give me advice, tricks and cheats, I'd be really grateful.

• Ann Coulstock - Hertford

To Anne Marie Flowers - How can you say that Lessons is one of the worst episodes ever? I found it touching and enjoyable. Every time I watch it, it brings a tear to my eye when Riker tells Picard, "Last I heard, Commander Darren was in Team Six." Picard's face makes my heart miss a beat; I really feel for him. It makes a change for Captain Picard to get romantically involved - he's not had many romances and to see him have one makes a pleasant change. But I do agree with you about the roll-up keyboard, and if they ever brought out on CD the sound track to Lessons, I would certainly buy it.

To Michael Sadler - I loved your final analysis to your mission on whether Borg TU lager was an alien drug. It was very good. I'll have to try some!

To David J Raper - Re Starfleet keeping a closer track on their off duty personnel. In DS9 Move Along Home, four officers went missing and nobody noticed until Jake asked Odo where his father was. But to tell the truth, I would never have even bothered to try and find Sisko - I really hate him now, even more than I ever have. (Sorry to any Sisko fans out there.)

To Brenda Allan - I think that most life forms we have come across look humanoid because maybe it is true about the ancient life form in The Chase. They said that they

scattered DNA fragments on many different worlds in their infancy. Maybe each life form does have something of someone else inside them.

Finally, to everyone - I think that it was very silly of CIC and Paramount to bring out the behind-the-scenes look at DS9 with Emissary in front of it, and then having the cheek to charge £15.99 for it. It's such a con, as most people have already purchased Emissary and don't need it again for their collection. I think that it should have been only the behind-the-scenes bit, and at a cheaper price, say £8.99. Still, I bought it and found it very interesting and learned a lot.

• Rory Smith - Hereford

I've recently become a member of IDIC after being informed by a friend how good it is, and I feel I have to agree with her. The newsletter has become one of my favourite 'reads' of all time and I can't wait for the next one to come.

To Adam North. In N/L 31, you mentioned in STVI when they were discussing who had fired on the Klingon cruiser. Spock said there had been a neutron surge just before the incident and Uhura suggested that it might have been the Klingon cruiser which had caused it, not that the cruiser had fired on itself.

To anyone - Though I'm sure the question has been answered hundreds of times, all I've got so far is the end of sentences thanking people for helping them. How do stardates work? [Ed: Send an SAE and 5p stamp to Valerie for a copy of "Explanation of Stardates".]

To Gordon Smyth - I am also a devoted Original Trek fan, and it's great to know there are still a few about. My all-time favourite episodes are probably 1) The Doomsday Machine 2) The Trouble With Tribbles 3) The Ultimate Computer 4) Day of the Dove 5) The Corbomite Maneuver.

Has anyone noticed the similarities between the recent new arrival of Seaquest and Star Trek?

• **Dave Smith - Northampton**

In September I was in America on holiday and was fortunate to see an episode of TNG (*Liaisons*) and DS9 (*Homecoming*). The DS9 I found to be very good, after seeing only first season episodes. You could see that in this season two opener, all the cast were more at home in their roles, the actors were living their characters more and interacting well with each other. Major Kira was the featured role in the episode, and Nana Visitor as Kira has grown in stature from the first season. Kira is a really strong character, one of Star Trek's more forceful woman characters, but is strong without losing her femininity - a very attractive combination.

There was one downside to the episode - at the end, three dreaded words appeared on screen. TO BE CONTINUED. Arggggh!

SPOILER ALERT In *Liaisons* Picard crash lands on a hostile asteroid and is found injured by a young woman who had also crashed some years before. The woman becomes infatuated with Picard and makes every effort to keep him there. Picard must escape before the woman does him harm. Another good performance by Patrick Stewart, and by Michael Dorn in the episode's sub-story, which has lots of comic incidents.

I spent my two weeks in America at Orlando, and while exploring the many shops and attractions I can across a shop on International Drive called Intergalactic Sci-Fi World - everything you can imagine to do with Star Trek and then some! The staff were friendly and helpful and offered to put my name on the mailing list. I said I was from the UK, but they assured me that would be fine and that there would be no charge. To my surprise, about a month after arriving home a 200-page catalogue dropped through my letterbox! Lots and lots of goodies, not just Trek but all cult TV, from Dr Who to the Simpsons. The catalogue is great, lots of it in colour. If you are ever in Orlando go see the shop. It's brilliant.

On the weekend I had to leave to come home, there was a Star Trek convention held at the Holiday Inn Hotel in Orlando. It was

quite a small con, but they had Rene Auberjonois (Odo of DS9) as guest of honour. Unfortunately, it was right at the end of my holiday and I was out of time (and money!). Never mind - some other time, maybe.

I did meet a number of American Trekkers. One who was on holiday from New York was in line to go into Universal Studios, wearing a Trek T-shirt, and we got talking until they opened the gates. I must say that American people are very friendly and it was great to talk Trek to them. All in all, my wife and I had a great time, we met a lot of great people, ordinary Americans who made you feel welcome in their country. To all American IDIC members, can I say thanks for a great time in your country.

To Sheila Clark - I agree with you about Classic Trek SFX; they may be naff by today's standards but as with any SF series, it's the stories that are important. The SFX are there to complement the action not to overpower the content. How many films have failed to impress at the box office because the SFX have been better than the story? You only have to look at ST:TMP for example - great SFX, rubbish story. It was only because of the fans that it became a money-making film. When you have a good story and good SFX then you have the makings of a good film. Classic Trek should be viewed and judged on its own merits and not compared to TNG or DS9. I still find Classic Trek stories stand up very well today, and still have a message for generations to come.

• **Clement Chung - Ipswich**

I've just seen *The Best of Both Worlds* (29th November) and I've been thinking and realised something. Since Guinan was on the Enterprise, she should know the fate of Picard and the rest of the crew against the Borg. Although I thought *Time's Arrow* was great, Guinan shouldn't have been there; from now on we know nothing will happen to the Enterprise crew until *Time's Arrow*, when they go back in time to meet her.

Why is it that the Enterprise, responding to distress calls, does not go to warp 9 or above? It is always between warp

7 and 8. In Best of Both Worlds they went at warp 9 for a long time before stopping to 'cool down' the engines.

Have you seen Brent Spiner and Margot Rose (The Inner Light) in recent episodes of Sky One's Night Court?

I was reading N/L 30 while watching a TNG episode on Sky, and looked up at the end of the end title credits and noticed for the first time a person walking on the Enterprise. I wondered and began reading again... and the very next article was Scott Rhodes about this (p18). Spooky!

When TNG ends the season on a cliff-hanger, did they make the concluding part at the beginning of production of the next season or after the production of the season previous? (Best of Both Worlds, Time's Arrow, Redemption) [Sheila - Part two was made at the beginning of the new season. Indeed, I believe part two wasn't necessarily even written when they filmed part one!]

I love out-takes. Has anyone got the Panini TNG sticker book - there are some candid shots of the cast. Sticker 12 - Data sticking his tongue out while reaching for the con unit. 35 has Picard sitting in his chair clearly showing the studio microphone on his badge. 41, taken on Farpoint, Jonathan Frakes pulling a face behind Denise Crosby. Check 29, you will see a wire attached to John de Lancie so he doesn't fall off the chair. Also, in ST:TNG Technical Journal, there is a wonderful shot of the main bridge of the pilot episode of Marina Sirtis and Denise Crosby laughing and Brent (directing?)

I've just got the Nitpicker's Guide for Next Generation Trekkers from Titan Books. It's not bad for £7.99 for a 934-page book, but I expected some photographs to show some of the scenes mentioned; there weren't any. Each programme from the beginning to the end of the 6th season is mentioned, with at least 3 packed pages on each. It is a must for fans, but after reading the oddities and oversights on each programme, could you watch them the same? And Titan's ST catalogue advertises the TNG Make-up FX Journal for £7.99 (inc P&P). Watch out for

the Starlog original in shops, imported from USA, as I bought it for £4.95.

Re an answer given to Anne Marie Flowers' letter. Picard doesn't look 64. Didn't Kirk and his crew retire before that age? How old is Patrick Stewart? [Janet - 53. Born 13th July, 1940]

I am looking for a poster of the Enterprise for my wall, and ST:TNG shirt or jumper. Know where I can get them?

Did you know you can get a TNG game for Gameboy? It is sadly too easy. (The password for promotion are Barclay (lieutenant), Tomalak (Lt. Cmdr.) Ro Laren (Commander) & Locutus (Captain).) I keep thinking that the Padd is a Gameboy!

It is distressing to hear in some reports that TNG 7th season may be the last, and to hear that there could be another spin-off series. TNG, I think, is the new 'flagship' of Star Trek and should continue. If some of the actors want to leave, let them, replace them. Can you imagine no more TNG except maybe a movie every two years or so? I really don't think much of DS9 - I watch it but don't video it to keep it for the future like TNG. There is something missing. Why do the original actors ask for such a huge amount of money to play the characters that made them household names? Do they really need it?

Did you see a PC computer game of TNG from America on Channel 4 Equinox on 5th December? Do you know when it's going to be in the UK?

• Gloria Fry - Glasgow

Thanks for a particularly interesting December newsletter. The articles were very thought provoking. Kay Stagg's worrying tale of USS Endeavour was a sad reminder of how one cannot trust people these days. You have every right to be furious, Kay, and it is a warning to us all that certain 'fans' give the whole of fandom a bad name.

Jennifer Cobbing's piece on the intolerance shown by some TNG fans was obviously from the heart. I do agree with

everything you say, Jennifer, and would add that it is surely a sign of the times. Some of the younger generation cannot understand a time before computer graphics were commonplace. They are unused to Classic Trek's style of drama where one has to interpret the subtleties of the acting and plot without relying heavily on the visual effects. On saying that I know of many young people who do love Classic Trek so not all are like the ones you mentioned. I have attended three conventions this year and can honestly say that there was no problem at any of them concerning the showing of episodes. One was LN con so that is no surprise. Warp One and Contagion had rooms set aside for them so there were no difficulties. Midcon I don't understand especially as George Takei was the guest!

I would add my voice to yours though in reminding some TNG fans that without the original series and its massive popularity there would have been no TNG.

Has anyone heard the Radio Rentals Star Trek ads on commercial radio? They are really amusing and the actors who do the Kirk and Spock voices excellent. The TSB is promoting a young persons account with a drawing of the Enterprise and the words 'Affirmative Captain' on the front of the leaflet. How many times has Star Trek been used in advertisements? Surely proof that it sells products.

To Sarah Irons - We will never know, but I would agree with you that if Jeffrey Hunter had continued in the role of Captain Pike it is doubtful if the Star Trek phenomenon would have happened. He was a good actor and played the character well, but Leonard Nimoy summed it up when he said that there was no spark between him and Jeffrey Hunter. With Bill Shatner there was that indefinable chemistry and that along with the Spock/Bones relationship is what gave the series the edge. Kirk has all the attributes you mentioned and the counterbalance to Spock was dramatic.

To Anne Marie Flowers - I remember Bill Shatner appearing on the Michael Parkinson show some time in the late 70's.

He recounted the tale of the Vietnam veterans you mentioned and was obviously very moved by the fact that the men had kept themselves alive by playing the different parts in the episodes. The next day the press was full of it and listeners bombarded BBC radio as Bill was on the Gloria Hunniford show on Radio 2 that afternoon. She asked him to tell the story again for those who had missed it the previous night.

• Stephen Daniels - Smailholm, Nr. Kelso

Has anyone noticed this Star Trek/LA Law thing? While watching LA Law over the Christmas hols I was wondering if Corbin Bernsen (Arnie Becker/Q2 in 'Deja Q') was offered a part in Star Trek or if he specifically asked for it, and all of a sudden I saw Rene Auberjonois' name appear on the opening credits, then the next name up was Remy Auberjonois! Is this other person a relation (I mean LA's a big place but two of them on the same show?!), his son perhaps. The next night (C4 were showing it nightly - hint, hint BBC) I nearly choked on my Safeway brand ready salted crisps when Nana Visitor's name came up. Have there been any other Trek stars in the show?

To Michael Farquhar (N/L31 p.46) - I think you are quite right, the Klingons have had more than their fair share of TNG stories. I never look forward to Klingon stories. I do however enjoy Worf/Alexander stories which are different, perhaps it's because I find them funny. The only exception to this is Redemption which I thoroughly enjoyed. Considering Worf wasn't going to be one of the main characters in the first place let's not alienate (excuse the pun) the audience with an over-emphasis on him.

To Pam Baddeley (N/L31 p.48) - You were saying in the last newsletter how DS9 has got off to a nice smooth start, unlike TNG. Of course it has, it has been able to learn from all the mistakes and troubles TNG encountered. Let's not forget that TNG was something radically new, following a very high standard set by a show unlike any other made in the 60's. TNG was the icebreaker and DS9 is the rowing-boat reaping the benefits.

To anyone - Well in no time at all TNG will be finished and the film will go into production. I expect it will have all our favourites like the Borg and Q in it, but what about Tasha? I think it would be a perfect opportunity for, say, Q to bring her back to life - or is that too Dallas-ish? What do you think?

• Edward Woo - Belisama City (Marshy Water City)

To Ann Coulstock - I too am a Kira fan. She is heavily involved because DS9 is next to Bajor - hence Bajoran stories. Sisko's role is still unclear until the next Kai is elected. Also what has happened to his role as the Emissary - and those Orbs?

To Stephen Shaw - Re the episode *Suspicious*. Picard had no hard evidence that a murder had occurred. First, the failure of the experiment meant the death of a scientist. The second was a suicide. It was only Dr Crusher's instinct that told her something was wrong. It's a mystery and the Doctor has to prove it against the odds. As for senior officers disobeying orders - she's not the first. Data has done it and so has Riker - who did try to advise Beverly not to pursue the matter. As for *Storyteller* - the whole idea was for O'Brien to feel (and look) uncomfortable in the role of the leader, and in no way did he look like a fool to me! I like O'Brien - he's a real down to earth officer.

To Stephen Daniels - I think you're wrong about DS9, there were some excellent storylines in the 1st season (*Babel*, *Captive Pursuit*, *Duet*, *Qless*, *Dax*, *Dramatis Personae* and *The Hands of the Prophets*). Surely there must be an episode you like?

To Jason Wells - Re the idea of the proposed series with a woman Captain. Commander Riker could be promoted to his own ship. Thomas Riker and Troi could be married on the ship. Dr Sela could be the new CMO and Data, 1st officer. I would like to see a Benzite or Bynar on the bridge.

To Zander Bruce & Marie I J Park - Well done. I support Dr Crusher's case for being in command, even if only in an emergency - just like Troi. However, I

thought the idea of away missions is that neither Picard nor Riker would be off the ship at the same time. There are plenty of security and survey teams on board to do the investigating. Riker and Worf (at least) should have stayed on board ship.

To Judith Taylor - Your argument about DNA led me to wonder about *The Changeling*. If Uhura had her mind wiped clean, she could only be taught to read, write, and her job, etc. She could not have been re-educated with her childhood and personal memories.

• Russell Witheyman - Crawley

Now that DS9 is into its second season I'd like to comment on the first. Although not as good as TNG this series is a pleasant addition to the World of Star Trek. I hope it will get better as there were a few duff stories in season 1, although highlights included *Captive Pursuit*, *Duet*, *Vortex* and *Emissary*. I would not like to see this run on its own, though I know season 7 of TNG looks to be the last. I really do hope it continues - if not, I've heard about *ST-Voyager* as a replacement. It sounds quite good; at least it's on a starship, not a space station.

Anyway, back to TNG. *Descent Part 2* was a slight let-down after the excellent *Part 1*, but *Gambit Part 1* was excellent. I've waited so long for Picard to punch Riker!! (All those who've seen it will know what I'm on about.) Unfortunately, I've yet to see *Part 2* which looks just as good as *Part 1*.

Also, does anyone agree with me that *Liaisons* was the funniest episode to have been made in ages? Worf's antics with the Ambassador and his dislike of the Dren uniform had me in stitches.

• Michael Sadler - Great Sutton, Cheshire

My latest investigation into the anomalies of Star Trek has led me to the truth about the Galley debate aboard the Enterprise.

If you remember, when STVI:TUC was released, this led to an argument as to whether there was a galley on the original Enterprise (IDIC, issues 23, 24).

After watching all of the original series and STVI, I discovered the shocking truth.

THERE ISN'T A GALLEY ON ANY OF THE ENTERPRISES!

I mean, I would have noticed if there had been one. I would have seen the oars or heard the drums, the flap of sails or even seen Charlton Heston chained to a bench with the other galley slaves.

To everyone - may the Force be with you.

• Hayley Clarke - Australia

I'm a new member, and having just finished reading my second newsletter I felt inspired to write.

This is all exciting and very overwhelming, as I come from a small town in South Australia where anything on Trek (except TV) is virtually non-existent, though during our last long weekend I went on a trip to Adelaide where I discovered that the Mercury Theatre was running a day where they were showing all six Trek films. I went, and it was an excellent day - it was my first experience with a group of more than five Trek fans. It's made me want to know if there are any conventions held in Australia. I've never heard of any. I would also like to know if there are any Australian Star Trek fan clubs - if anyone would like to they can write to me about this at 32 Chinnery St, Port Augustus West, South Australia, 5700, Australia.

To Sarah Irons - I myself am a Spock and McCoy fan, and I'm sure that no matter who played the Captain their attitude to each other would still have developed.

To James Connarty - There are two Star Trek role-playing games that I know of - Star Trek the Role-Playing Game, which is produced by FASA (this might be hard to obtain) and one called Prime Directive, which is a new game from Task Force Games.

To Brenda Allan - Re replicators - the Federation does not use money as such - but from what I can gather they use a credit

system, so I would assume that each item replicated is logged/credited to the company/distributor which produces it - sort of like an EFTPOS machine does - and some kind of payment would be made later.

To Moira Warburton - Re Genesis - The Genesis matrix rearranges particles to its own design and I assume that there was enough material in the Reliant and the Mutara Nebula to make a planet (and orbiting sun!). After all, nebulas are supposedly the birthplace of stars.

To Marie I J Park - Re Chain of Command - I agree with your comments about Picard in this. I also remember him saying (to Beverly?) that at the time of his Cardassian release, he was on the verge of saying that there were five lights, which goes to show that he is not a superhuman, "we're not worthy to be in his presence" character. What really shocked me were those torture scenes - that the writers would actually consider doing that to Captain Picard in the first place!

To Mandy Leahy - Re the androids. The attractive quality of Data is the dream of being the person who brings within him the emotion of love!! He is also such an innocent and likeable character - you can't help but feel something for him.

Could anybody give me a translation of some dialogue between Spock and Saavik in STII:TWOK just after Kirk's inspection of the trainee crew aboard the Enterprise - my CIC video copy doesn't have subtitles to this, yet on the theatre version it does!

• Jenny Turner - Birmingham

I know you have had lots of comments on books and I agree they are not as good as they used to be. I have got to the stage where I only buy occasionally - those that I really want. I sometimes get them as gifts, which is nice.

My favourites (which I have kept and keep on reading) are as follows - ST: Dreams of the Raven, The Vulcan Academy Murders, Ishmael (my big favourite), Killing Time, Ice Trap (McCoy didn't like going under the ice!)

and Bloodthirst (vampires!). TNG: Boogeymen, Masks (I loved this one), Ghost Ship, and especially A Rock and a Hard Place. I recently had given me Guises of the Mind, Here There Be Dragons and Descent, which I'm reading at the moment. It sounds as though Data is going to be really a pain in the neck (I haven't seen the episode yet).

Someone was asking in one of the newsletters for a short comment on what out of print zines were the best. I only have a few zines now, but here goes:

Genzines - AS NEW WINE by Meg Wright. Kirk has only known Spock a short time and goes on a mission with him - with Spock as the boss! CLOSER THAN A BROTHER by Meg Wright. Sequel to ANW. Spock needs help; Kirk goes to help him. VARIATIONS ON A THEME 1 - 8 by Valerie Piacentini & Sheila Clark. A Spock who loses his Kirk goes into an alternative universe where there is another Spock who is ill-treating his Kirk. (My favourite.) PRECESSIONAL - Kirk and Spock are stranded on a planet after the Enterprise blows up. McCoy and the others have been killed. BLOODSTONE - a sort of SF fantasy. K/S zines - BROKEN IMAGES by Beverly Sutherland. Kirk is stranded in an alternate universe by an ion storm (that Kirk being transferred to 'our' universe). The story revolves around Kirk and the alternative Spock. Nice zine. ICEFIRE by Ann Crouch. Kirk meets Spock again when Kolinar fails. NIGHTVISIONS Kirk is blinded and Spock looks after him.

These are all novels, and as far as I know are all long out of print. They're not always easy to get, but you can try advertising. [Sheila - *Icefire and the Variations series are available from Bill Hupe. The Meg Wright titles might be available from At The Sign of the Dragon, 131 Sheen Lane, East Sheen, London SW14 8AE]*

• **Dave Styles - Ashford, Kent**

To Valerie Piacentini - For aliens not adjusted to Earth-normal gravity, see the DS9 episode Melora.

To Stephen Daniels - Re directions in three dimensions; there's two ways of going about it. You can specify an object's position by its distance along, across and up from a given origin (cartesian co-ordinates). Alternatively, and this is how courses are set in ST, you pick any straight line, say a line joining two angles, along and up from your given line, and you specify a position by a distance along that direction (radial co-ordinates).

To Baerbel Schmidt, Gordon Smith, Jacqueline Y Comben - I've joined the OUKFC. I agree that perhaps they're not quite the dedicated Trekkers that we feel should be running an 'official' ST club, but then, I say good luck to them. In the last 25 years no-one else has had the courage to invest the amount of money such an undertaking requires. Why shouldn't they have a go, when no-one else has shown the initiative? As for their magazines taking an age to arrive, I am told from a reliable source in the OUKFC that this was due solely to Paramount's delay in giving approval. As for their prices, it's good old market forces! They're cheaper than one shop I know. However, it does seem that this 'official' club is going to be rather impersonal.

To Kay Stagg - I sympathise with your trouble with USS Endeavour. Perhaps the answer is to have a crack at forming a group yourself. An article in any of the local free newspapers should work. I am intrigued in the money 'up front' aspect, though. Being treasurer of my local group, I often worry about money. We've got too much! The membership told me and another chap in whose houses we meet that everyone should contribute 50p each meeting for tea, coffee, biccies etc. We've got over £50 now. Can I put this into a bank account? I've been told that Paramount's official position is that I can do what I like as long as I don't make a profit. I know it's only a few pence, but it's also a matter of principal. Have any other treasurers solved this problem?

As for no more TNG - well, just possibly it could be a good thing. In the past so many popular and successful series (both SF and non-SF) have been kept going far past

their best. A good programme knows when to end - eg Blake's Seven, when they were all killed off.

• **Michael Farquhar - Dubai, United Arab Emirates**

To Edward Woo - As a hobby for Bashir - isn't he pretty intent on making a name for himself (frontier medicine, writing a paper on Data (Birthright) etc)?

To Anne Marie Flowers - See the IDIC zine Make It So 17, Crossing the Line by Alan Butler, which deals with the Riker/Crusher relationship just after The Host. You're right as well about Lessons, the score makes the episode. The playing of the Ressian music by Picard and Daren in the Jeffries Tube is one of my favourite scenes from the entire season (and I loved the roll out piano).

To David J Raper - Would you want your employer to keep a constant track on you? That seems a bit too much for me (Big Brother is watching you, etc). Starfleet trains its personnel to take care of themselves as best it can, and then cuts them free during their spare time - Picard's reaction in Captain's Holiday to the suggestion that he takes a security guard with him to Risa, for example.

To Brenda Allan - About the replicators - would replicated material (eg food) be a brand name, or would it be generic (like a store's 'own brand'). If it's the latter, then wouldn't the replicator company just create their own computer programs for specific food stuffs, and pocket the cash (credits, whatever) themselves. Also see episodes like The Defector, where Admiral Jarok is informed that without the precise molecular structure of Romulan foods, he can't have them replicated - you could just program in your own recipes, and not have to worry about it.

To Sheila Clark - Saying that DS9 uniforms are for 'land' based personnel is still the best answer but it then has the problem that all of the Starbase personnel we've seen should have had the same - Commander 'Call me Hutch' Hutchinson in TNG's sixth season Starship Mine. for example.

To Gloria Fry - Your point about the ages of Kirk and Picard is a good one - I think the reason there are no cries of 'geriatrics' etc for Patrick Stewart is that he was established in TNG at the age of 59, and therefore we got used to it from the beginning. With Shatner and the other OT cast, we've seen them age visibly over the years, and seeing them change from youthful actors to advanced middle age, maybe makes them seem older than they are

To Sara Jackson - What can I say except sorry - didn't mean to use your name when I shouldn't have. That's what you get for rushing a letter.

To Gordon Smith - Good for you! I'm one of the shy types you mentioned, and if I could get there, I'd come to Starbase 94 - but it's a bit of a long haul. I was at Lightspeed 93, my first con, and if I hadn't gone with a friend, I'd have been completely stuck the whole time. The hard thing is to break in on people you don't know who are obviously having fun - you just tend to hang around the fringes all the time. So, again, good for you.

• **Marysia Kolodziej - Glasgow**

To Ann Coulstock - Re Frame of Mind. I thought the constant scene shattering made it all the more exciting.

To Sheila Clark - Re diet. Lack of important vitamins affects concentration and fluid (spacial) intelligence, though not non-fluid (lexical) intelligence. It can also cause violent tendencies.

To Stephen Daniels - Re compasses for above and below. I would have suggested Zenith and Nadir, but that would give 2 Ns.

To Taruka - Re Pawns and Symbols. Surely one point of novels and stories is to expand our view of the ST universe. I thought Pawns and Symbols was one of the best ST novels I have read.

To Moira Warburton - There was a planet formed inside the Mutara Nebula that was close enough to the Reliant to be affected by the Genesis effect.

Something I noticed. Why are all androids male? Lal, a few in Blade Runner - female androids are rare and far between. Mechanical sexism?

Is anyone here on the E-mail networks? You can contact me at 933914@psy1.psych.glasgow.ac.uk if you are.

• John Milton - Liverpool

14 people entered the DS9 poster competition, and all gave the right answer. Two lived very near me (one was in the next road!) and I gave them one each.

I discovered that I actually had enough posters to give all the entrants a poster; the ones that were sent were Ian Dixon, Nasline Linge, Baerbel Schmidt, Mrs Jo Healy, Michael Sadler, Philip Morley, Alison Cooper, Miss L Ellis, Mr & Mrs C Shaw, Anthony Saunders, David Glass and Neil Barrett. I hope they enjoy their posters.

• Jill Clements - Bexleyheath, Kent

Firstly, congratulations to Amanda Epstein (I'm sure she's a member) on 15 to 1 on 8th December. Nice win, I'm sorry you didn't make it to the Finals Board; better luck next year.

Recently I have had the opportunity to watch a few Next Gen episodes again (apart from nightly on Sky). Enquiry - What is Will Riker's problem? Is his attitude "Bed 'em or abuse 'em", or is he threatened by "stronger" women? Example - On the ship where a bridge officer wears a very strong and visible cultural symbol, a newly arrived ensign is told to remove an ear ring! And - A newly arrived commander is treated with disrespect and derision for displaying the self-same confidence he had shown on his promotion. Is he threatened because she is female? Could it be that he had left the better part of his psyche on Nirvala 4? In Troi's place I know who I would have chosen. Thomas Riker showed sensitivity and great feeling when he left Deanna to follow her chosen course. I feel he will return and she will make the right decision.

Re Future Imperfect - Data looked even better in red and 'Admiral' Picard's tunic was

excellent. (Hola, Taruka, have you worked out a pattern for it yet? I'm busy with graph paper!) Will Riker actually partly redeemed himself with his compassion for Borash. I had tears in my eyes but was also reminded of Charlie X, whose loneliness led him to far worse behaviour than that of Borash.

Re QVC (Quite Visibly Chaotic) - What is going on? I turned on to watch the Star Trek Hour and didn't know whether to laugh, cry or hand in the TV licence.

I went to Forbidden Planet to see Diane Duane and to buy Dark Mirror. I was about 6th or 7th in the queue for the signing and was mesmerised by the conversation of the first 3 or 4 people. Who were you? Yes, you two Will Riker bearded technos. To the young lady with the artwork, send some to IDIC if you haven't already. Miss Duane was pleasant and chatty and when I showed her the letter in N/L 30 she thanked me and signed that also. (I had not realised that they wrote Seaquest DSV and I bought that also. I do enjoy the programme and some of the characters and the SFX are wonderful.)

I found some really good condition second-hand TNG paperbacks at a Comic and Film Fair in Great Russell Street. They are on fairly regularly. The guy with the signed photos would shame a Ferengi. 230 what??? The Totally Trek stand was well worth a visit and he offered to look out for some things for me, including Ol 'Yellow Eyes is Back. (Linda Pengally - Sam Goody have tried to order it for me but haven't had a reply yet. If it is successful, do you want me to order one for you, if you haven't got a Sam Goody in your area?)

To Sue Watkin, you are right and I thoroughly enjoyed Return to the Source. The way Nicole Comtet wrote Spock's inner turmoil and slide to almost depression was gripping stuff. I have never read an ST paperback in one sitting, but I did this.

Encounters and Countermoves is fun. I've often suspected my Cuddles of mind melding, especially if the food I've put down is not one of his favourites. I see Vulcans as very feline characters. They are solitary and

insular with repressed emotions but when they are roused, watch out for the claws. Following that thought; the Klingons are quite canine and pack-like. The names would even suit German Shepherds and Dobermans.

To Liz Caldwell - I have found the DS9 characters growing on me as well, especially Odo and Quark (which worries me slightly). I'm missing DS9 already and hope Sky shows season two soon. I thought Lwaxana's tenderness and sympathy towards Odo showed she is not entirely 'the maneater from Hell' she had seemed to be.

To Tracey Saunders - I have been going to Spiritual Healing for nearly a year now, and one evening a healer spotted my IDIC pin. I explained to her what it represented; that IDIC meant we should all be able to co-exist and see our differences as a benefit and not a threat. She thought it expressed their beliefs beautifully. As for Data - he has more soul and sensitivity than some people I know.

**• Marion van der Voort - East Sheen,
London**

On Wednesday, 22nd December, Richard and I and our grandson sat down to watch a miracle. After twenty years the BBC showed 'Plato's Stepchildren'. We have seen it years ago, of course, and have a copy of our own so that we can see it when ever we please, and it has never been a favourite episode, but never mind all that, the BBC has climbed down. Not only that, but it carried on showing the series over Christmas. Has it had a change of heart? The next season of the Next Generation is being shown in June, so the rep' from Pocket Books tells us. We'll have Doctor Who back next.

• A Thorpe - Bargoed, Mid Glamorgan

To Adam North - it would appear that it is you who are confused about STII: TWOK. Stephen Daniels was correct, Chekov could not have known Khan or vice versa - for the character of Chekov had yet to be produced.

Khan first appeared in the episode Space Seed aired on 6th February 1967.

Chekov's first appearance was several months later in the episode Amok Time aired on 15th September 1967. In case anyone out there says he appeared earlier - he did not for the episodes were not chronologically run).

In response to your query on STVI: TUC. When Chekov says "... could only have come from another ship" (quotes from your letter in n/l 31) and Uhura says "Kronos One", Chekov was referring to the Neutron Radiation detected by the Enterprise earlier. The entire scene was:

Spock: "There was an enormous neutron surge."
 Scotty: "Not from us."
 Chekov: "A neutron surge that big could only be produced by another ship."
 Uhura: "Kronos-1."
 Spock: "Too far away; very near us, possibly beneath us."

So you can see, you had to see it in context. I hope that has helped you and others in some small way.

• Elaine McCue - Glasgow

On behalf of the rest of the Contagion committee, I wish to rectify certain inaccuracies about Contagion '93 that were contained in Zander Bruce's letter to Newsletter 30.

How Zander can say that no committee members could be found on the Friday night until after midnight is totally beyond us, considering that the entire committee were at the hotel from 6 pm, as the hundred or so people who obtained their registration packs on the Friday evening can confirm.

I am afraid it is totally unfeasible for a committee member to meet first time attendees when they arrive. Unfortunately we just can't spare the human resources to do so. There are just too many other things to do.

The committee wishes to point out that the newcomers' gathering (or so-called 'Virgins' Party) was organised by the committee, and not by Zander as stated in the newsletter. We are already planning a

similar event for '94.

The committee have never adopted a 'chuck-some-videos and they'll be happy' attitude. The programme is composed primarily of videos and guest talks because that is what most people want to see. Our '93 con was the first time we managed to hold a Fancy Dress Competition, simply because it was the first time enough people volunteered to take part. We have tried to hold quizzes in the past but not enough people agreed to compete. We can't run items such as these without people taking part - so let's see some volunteers!

I hope this clarifies the situation.

On a personal note, the prospect of a third Star Trek spinoff series worries me greatly. Although I was not enthusiastic about TNG in the beginning, I now like it as much as the original. I do not, nor ever will, accept DS9 as Star Trek, but like it for different reasons. I feel there is a danger with a third series that the whole idea could be trivialised to become mere soap opera or that in a couple of years people will groan at the very thought of Star Trek. Maybe we should be satisfied with DS9 and TNG movies. I guess we'll just have to wait and see what happens.

• Pam Baddeley - Farnborough

To Stephen Shaw - I wasn't keen on Birthright either, but for different reasons. Like Michael Farquhar, I'm suffering from an overdose of Worf, though I enjoyed earlier Klingon stories. In this case I found it unbelievable that he could fall for a naive teenager after K'ehylar, and I found the whole macho thing about hunting a complete turn off. It didn't seem credible, either, given what we've seen of the Klingons, that so many would have thrown in the towel. Frankly, although I hear that the Data subplot in Part 1 was put in to pad out the Klingon story to a 2-parter, I found it much more interesting and would have preferred a one-parter just about that. Rightful Heir was a bore also. The number of Klingon stories is unbalancing the show - it would be much better to do stories about Troi, Geordi or Data instead. I also think it's a shame that when

they give Bev a story it's inappropriate and comes over as silly. Suspicions would have been OK for Geordi but the material was just too far outside her field. Similarly, although it was great to see a woman (Bev) acting as a cool, competent Captain in Descent, it was barmy to have it be the CMO, as Judith Taylor says. I mean, can we believe that Picard would send everyone off the ship, leaving the Doctor in charge! She should have relieved him of duty instead of assuming command. If anyone had to take the chair, it should have been a woman in *the command structure*. I still think, however, that Picard would *not* have been so derelict in his duty as to send practically all the crew to the planet. Ray Dowsett must be especially peeved in view of his interesting remarks on command structures.

To Brenda Allan - Re replicators. I imagine it's a bit like computers today - you buy the basic hardware and software then pay extra for the programs you want. In the same way, you'd buy a basic replicator with standard programs then pay extra for additional 'patterns'. The thing that puzzles me about replicators is their energy bills - when you consider the enormous amount of energy locked up in matter, they must be colossal!

Rebekah Owens' article on Dr Soong was interesting. Soong does treat Data as a thing - abandoning him for over 20 years then using a homing device instead of just sending him a message! He doesn't talk to him as an equal either. His motivation in creating androids seems to be self aggrandisement - apart from anything else, he makes them literally in his own image. He seems to have left Lore to his own devices rather than give him guidance, and his view of where his involvement ended appears to be once Lore was created, and he juked him when he 'mysteriously' became angry and vengeful. Lore appears to be emotionally arrested in the 'terrible twos' stage, but Soong doesn't appear to be much further advanced. I would query that the dream program is responsible for Data's aggression in Descent, though; I thought it was Lore beaming negative emotions into him, using the chip he stole in Brothers.

Re Jennifer Cobbing's article - I hope she appreciates that there are also older fans of TNG who grew up with Classic Trek and who appreciate both - and even DS9 too - in their different ways, although we can also see the flaws in each. If we didn't have the newer Treks, I would have said the antagonism would have died out naturally once TNG finished production. The only consolation is that those with a superficial interest will drop out.

This ties in with Ann Looker's article - long time no see, Ann - I would have written for Grope, but I bought the whole set when they came out. I too, stopped going to cons for years - I finally went to one last year and thought, "Where's the...?" (fill in the blank). The BBC hasn't helped, since, depending on who they know, there are fans varying from those who've seen everything apart from the newest episodes aired in the States to those who've seen nothing since series 3 TNG. It obviously leads to people desperate to see episodes being given 3 days of access to them.

The decline in ST zines is sad, but the force that generated them - a need to create our own Trek - has dissipated as more and more official Trek becomes available. The commercial forces have jumped on the bandwagon. We have to exercise discretion; if the trashy stuff doesn't sell, they might get the message. As one of the poor saps who didn't hear the negative publicity about the Official Club till *after* joining it, I'd say that so far it's a rip off and I won't renew. We need to publicise bona fide unofficial clubs to make new fans aware that there are alternatives.

• Gratienne Vandekerkhove - Belgium

To all in IDIC, thank you for a wonderful year of sharing.

To Gloria Fry - I disagree with your view of Kirk's portrayal by Marshak & Culbreath as being weak. They show human weaknesses, and he is all too human, with an underlying strength, a courage to recognise and accept these weaknesses and in doing so making them a point of strength. Do you think I have read different novels? (Joke!)

To Sarah Irons - (N/L 31, p 31) I won't presume to speak for Bjo Trimble, but I sincerely doubt that the continuity of William Shatner as one of the leading actors in Star Trek had anything to do with her letter campaign. What Star Trek portrayed, and I think that every one of us defines that for him/herself, is the reason she found the show worth fighting for.

Re doctors in command - I have to give a negative opinion. I think that in a crisis situation their chosen profession would in itself bring them into conflict with orders to be given, jeopardising the same lives they swore to protect. Their instinct would be to tend to the casualties, which is their primary duty and responsibility. Their loyalty can't be divided.

To Sue Jones - I loved your Irish con report. May I ask if you have written other fanzines besides Capriccio Italien, which I liked.

Re zine recommendation list - On reading Waltraud Zucha-Glass's article, I agreed with her. It certainly would help anyone, addictive or not, to know which zine to buy, making it less expensive in the end, especially if you tend to buy your zines in the States. But lately I've had some second thoughts. Any list can't be but subjective and very limited. I don't think it possible for one person to buy and read everything that has been published. Every months new zines are being advertised, which would necessitate continuous updating.

I have been watching ST VI for the umpteenth time and there are some things which keep slapping me in the face with their illogicality. Kirk and Co. drunk at that dinner... Those officers with their years of dealing with friend and foe, behaving in such a way? McCoy failing to see that iridium plate Spock slapped on Kirk's back when it's smack in his line of vision in the turbolift. The Klingons putting them on trial without giving their persons and clothes a thorough search. The easy way the Enterprise passes the Klingon border after the assassination of Chancellor Gorkon by Federation officers. Surely every outpost ought to have been

warned of possible infiltration and/or treachery, not to mention augmentation of patrols on the Klingon border - besides, a thorough sensor scan would have identified that ship as a Federation one.

I don't often get a TNG zine or story in my hands as my main interest is in Classic Trek, but lately I came across MAB by Debbie Lee. I have found it to be fun reading, captivating, holding my interest at what turn the events would take next; it's got tempo, never gets dull and is totally in line with the characters, bringing them alive and real. Definitely worth getting.

• Ann Peters - Kidderminster

To Kathleen Glancy - I don't see the Horta's and the Salt Monster's motives as dissimilar; they were both in a battle for survival, and fighting for your children, who carry your genes, is just as selfishly motivated as fighting for your own existence. I suppose what it come down to is whether or not you feel the Saltophile was killing because it liked to kill. Whether or not Kirk was REALLY threatening it (though I think he was) is irrelevant; it is the CREATURE'S perception that matters. I think it was terrified and desperate and killed from a survival reflex, so I don't see it as malevolent at all.

To David Flack - To convert a base 10 number to base 3, divide repeatedly by 3 and note the remainders, then read the remainders backwards. Thus 99 divided by 3 = 33 rem. 0; 33 divided by 3 = 11 rem 0; etc, so 99 base 10 becomes 10200 base 3. Position values for base 3 numbers are successive powers of 3, ie 1, 3, 9, 27 etc, so we can check that $1 \times 81 + 2 \times 9$ is indeed 99. [Ed - Thanks too to Neil Barrett and Helen White.]

To Liz Caldwell & James Connarty - I too am puzzled by the suggestion that DS9 is so very like TOS, because I see nothing in DS9 of the close relationships that characterised TOS. Much as I like to watch DS9 episodes, I still feel the casting was not ideal. Visitor is not a patch on Forbes' Ro, Farrell's Dax is not a patch on Goldberg's Guinan for hundreds of years of accumulated wisdom, and Sisko and his pet baseball are

just plain boring. When I watch SeaQuest, however, I realise that the DS9 characters could have been a whole lot worse!

To Baerbel Schmidt - Women are biologically disadvantaged when comes to having a career AND raising a family, and I'm not sure that an enlightened attitude from men can ever change that. I don't see how a childbearing woman who takes the very difficult job of motherhood seriously can ever be on an equal footing in the career market with a man. Perhaps the best compromise that might one day be on offer is to fertilise eggs from a career-minded woman artificially and to plant them into surrogate mothers, who would then bear and raise the children as their own. The woman's genes would be passed on to future generations without the burden of childrearing, which is exactly the situation that men enjoy at present. Some men may, of course, CHOOSE to help raise their children, but the fact remains it is not their biological responsibility.

• Shirley Read - Solihull

I am writing to say how pleased I was to see George Takei on the Ann and Nick show the other day. It's really nice to know that George appreciates his fans and how they support him. I am also writing to say it would be nice to see Star Trek stars such as Walter Koenig and Leonard Nimoy on UK TV interviews.

I would also like to say how much I enjoy being a member of "GHT - George Takei's World-wide Fan Club. Ena's newsletter are very good and I would recommend the club to any fan of George Takei's.

"G.H.T": George Takei's Official Worldwide Fan Club. For details send SASE/IRCs (for overseas), to: Ena Glogowska, 62 Southbank Street, Leek, Staffs. ST13 5LN, England

• James Robertson - Brechin

To Sheila Clark - I wasn't knocking the original series, I prefer the original over Next Gen, but compared to today's FX the Classic are not very good. I agree however that you don't watch the classic for the FX but for the

interaction between the cast, something DS9 seems to be developing, thank goodness.

I would like to announce that the URS Discovery in Dundee will be undergoing a few changes in the New Year. We have changed the venue and the name of the club, and the committee. The first year in any club is the hardest, so to all the members of what was Discovery who are in IDIC, we will return in the New year, revamped and ready to go. Thanks for sticking by us.

Re Lightspeed '93. I'd only been to one con before that, Contagion '93, so I was really looking forward to Lightspeed. I'd even put myself down for steward's duties.

We arrived on Friday about 5 pm after a nightmare drive through Leeds in the rush hour and checked in, then rushed to get our convention packs. I opened mine and checked the steward duties. SEVEN hours of duties - I couldn't believe it! Contagion's stewards only did one or two hours.

Needless to say, I managed to miss all the interesting talks, and spent most of my time sitting in doorways checking badges for the entire con - *con* being the right word!

I paid for three days, same as everyone else. I got two days. I will not volunteer for anything at Lightspeed again. I think the committee who organised it should be ashamed of themselves for taking money under false pretences.

The hotel, while looking OK, suffered from a bad case of broken lifts, resulting in a catalogue of bruised arms and legs, and a bout of food poisoning for several people dampened the spirits somewhat. The Vulcan Surprise, perhaps?

It wasn't all bad, however - I proposed to my girl friend on the Sunday night and she accepted, so despite my gripes about the con, it finished on a high! (Thank you, Amanda.)

• Anne-Marie Flowers - Glasgow

To Stephen Shaw - Re Suspicious. You are entirely correct about Suspicious being an 'aargh' episode. Firstly, the blurb on the back

of the video says that Beverly is accused of murder - this is not true. Secondly, I agree that there is no way that Picard would leave her to try to unravel a suspected murder herself - if he believed there was the smallest possibility of a murder having occurred he would surely have assigned Worf to the case. Thirdly, I am sure that Starfleet and/or the Federation must have a protocol for carrying out postmortems after suspicious deaths. In this country if a doctor is unable to provide a death certificate, a PM would be carried out regardless of the individual's religion or cultural practices, and I'm sure the same thing would apply to a spaceship.

To Gloria Fry - Re Picard's age and retirement. In the episode Relics, Scotty is rescued after being locked in a transporter cycle for 75 years. He is now 147 years old, so he was 72 when he crashed. He states that he was just about to settle into his retirement. In Encounter at Farpoint we meet Dr McCoy who is alive and kicking at 137 or thereabouts. If the lifespan of human beings exceeds 100 years in the 24th century then it would seem reasonable that one would retire at a much later age, say 85? Some of the Admirals we have seen are certainly much older than Picard. I also noticed that the events in Tapestry are supposed to have taken place 30 years ago, which would make Picard only about 52. And I still can't work out when he was supposed to have been at University in Paris and when he did all that studying with Prof. Galen - or was that part of his Academy training? Help! [Sheila - Neither the Starfleet Chronology nor the Nitpickers' Guide seem to cover these points.]

Re officers needing counselling - I find it impossible to believe that Tom Riker would be able to step straight back in to active duty after being stranded on that planet. Apart from all the history/politics/technological advances he would have to catch up on, surely to discover that he had a twin/double would require a huge psychological adjustment?

To James Connarty - The line I love to hate is said by T'Pel in Data's Day - "Caution is clearly called for, Captain". The alliteration is OTT.

To anyone - What is a Creation Con? [Sheila - *Creation is a series of pricey professionally-run cons in America - there could even be two or three in different parts of the country on the same day! I've even seen a list of Creation Cons where a given actor appeared twice, at different venues, on the same day.*]

• Neil Barrett (Champion Mighty as a Bear!) - Second from top in Division III at the time of writing.

Male Deltans - Hairy or not? I don't think it safe to assume the appearance and characteristics of an entire race on the few specimens we have encountered. There may be more than one race within the Delta species thus allowing some to have hair (consider the differences between the majority of the Japanese people and the Ainu). Do we have any evidence that the President's flowing locks are actually his own? They could be a wig or an implant which he wears for fashion, status, religious or cultural reasons (as with 18th Century society here in the West). The novelisation of STETWoK suggests that there was a Delta scientist on the Genesis project; on screen the equivalent character has collar length dark hair and faintly Asiatic features.

Glamorous Captains. Well my vote would be for Jill Gascoigne but I have to agree with Paul Hulford in asking why 'glamorous'? The simple answer is that it will help Paramount to sell the show. That requires someone who approximates the Western ideal of beauty. Which immediately brings up the idea that different cultures and individuals have different perceptions of beauty and glamour - Helen White claims General Korrd is attractive, I can't really disagree with that other than to say he's not my type... Jim Kirk was lucky in that the intergalactic 'bimbo of the week' was usually blonde, nubile and Californian.

Do Angry Klingons See Ultraviolet? Thanks for the answers so far. The question I was trying to ask was - is this feasible given what we know about the conditions on their homeworld? Do we know the spectral classification of their home sun? In the movie era, bridges of Klingon vessels are

usually dark - are they lit in ultraviolet? Could Sulu fly a Bird of Prey when instruments or warning lights are in a colour he can't see? How did Riker cope aboard the Pagh? Has Worf reprogrammed the tactical station to suit him? Does this explain why Guinan is a better shot - because Worf can't hit the red targets?

Costume Drama. I must admit to being slightly biased on the Fancy Dress debate (to act or not to act) because I have thespian tendencies myself. I tend to agree with Liz Caldwell in that we should separate the categories; if there are enough entries then have two events, if not then award separate prizes for best costume and best performance. If you are intending to perform then you should either check the availability of sound equipment or learn to project your voice. I think there's another problem in that I sometimes find myself asking 'What was that about?' after an entrant has departed the scene. The tap-dancing Vulcan at Warp One springs immediately to mind. At a purely Trek convention I would expect the entrants to have some connection to Trek or some other recognisable form of Sci-fi, rather than be a vehicle for the entrants own fantasy (or Fantasy).

Comix 'n' Grafik Novulz. I seem to have annoyed Alan Stephen. I'm tempted to suggest that he goes back and reads IDIC 30 again. In my letter there I actually made the distinction between the medium and the message. I'm not engaged in intellectual snobbery as Alan implies - I'm merely pointing out that the mechanics of the medium can restrict the message - a picture may paint a thousand words but it can take a page of artwork to illustrate a sentence.

Turn the Radio on... I actually agree with Alan on one point - that radio can be an extremely successful medium for science fiction. I have enjoyed the BBC adaptations mentioned and even a 50s series like 'Journey into Space' can still convey tension and atmosphere. Does anybody out there remember a Radio 4 comedy/sketch show called 'Star Terk II' [sic] from the mid-eighties?

And finally ... the redubbed voice of The Keeper is probably Vic Perrin who is also heard in 'Arena' and 'The Corbomite Manoeuvre' and seen as Tharn in 'Mirror, Mirror'.

• Edwin Yau - HOVE, Sussex

Having seen the first few TNG season 7 episodes already, I have to say that on the whole, season 7 of TNG is absolutely terrible! What on earth were the writers thinking about, and where did they get those actors from? "Descent II" has really bad acting, and I mean REALLY BAD! It looks like season 1 acting! Overall, I'm glad this is the last season of TNG as I feel that they are now scraping the bottom of the barrel with TNG. It was a bad idea to have Borgs with emotions, as now there are no totally evil races in TNG. What with good Borg and bad Borg it reminds me of the Disney movie "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" - in this case "Snow White and the Seven Borg"!!! You now have Happy Borg, Grumpy Borg, Bashful Borg, etc...

• Sue Jones - Wirral, Merseyside

Much has been said on the pages of IDIC about the Official Star Trek Fan Club of the UK, but I decided that the only way to really find out what it was like was to give it a try. Sadly, I am getting to be less and less impressed with it.

To begin with, I sent my subscription off in late October. OK, allowing for a sudden influx of interest, they may be having a struggle responding to all their enquiries so I forgave them for finally getting my first magazine to me 29 days later in November. I was less happy with the fact that it was the Summer issue, which meant that "the up-to-date information" I had been promised was by that time decidedly old hat. However, perhaps they thought I would like to be in at the beginning, so to speak.

Issue 1 was followed less than a fortnight later by Issue 2. I'm probably being picky, but this means that I have already had half of my extremely expensive subscription in one month and of these one was out of date and the other jammed so close to it as to take all the pleasure away. Not much

concern for the welfare of fans there I think.

Not that you get that much to read. Glossy pictures, yes, but not a lot of text. Much space is also devoted to advertisements for Trek merchandise, 98% of which is available through ordinary retail outlets at far cheaper prices.

I think the crowning insult had to be the arrival of an equally glossy leaflet which told me that if I watched the QVC channel on Sky TV I would be told how I could own the wonderful Star Trek posters depicted therein. If I haven't got the details quite correct I apologise - I was so cross I threw the leaflet straight in the bin. I do not subscribe to Sky TV and have no intention of doing so. It now appears that belonging to "the Official Club" is not sufficient to entitle you to buy their merchandise, it is merely the vehicle by which other organisations can reach a particular market where interest in their goods is more or less guaranteed - and we have to pay for the privilege! [Janet - I don't think you have to pay to get QVC, but you do have to have a satellite receive or possibly cable.]

• Brenda Allan - Canada

To Stephen Daniels p 24 - Re holodeck objects surviving outside the holodeck, I agree that lipstick, water etc can survive outside the holodeck, but what characters? Case in point two villains from The Big Goodbye. Why did it take so long for them to break down? Technically they should never have been able to leave the holodeck, let alone watch in shocked amazement as their bodies slowly disintegrated.

To Gloria Fry p 24 - Re Picard's age. I believe that I read somewhere that Starfleet had rethought their policy of retirement by the time Picard came to command. After all the trouble they had keeping Kirk off a Starship, they decided to allow a person to be Captain as long as they possessed the skill and willingness to do so.

To Baerbel Schmidt p 26 - Re the Official Fan Club. I joined TOFC for 2 years and was disappointed with the magazine and the club in general. My magazines were

almost always late and any merchandise I ordered took forever to arrive. They insist on written letters for merchandise enquiries, so I faxed a written letter and never got a response. I finally called them and told them what I thought of their service. Needless to say, I did not renew my membership. I think I get more for my money with IDIC!

To Bill Murphy p 27 - I believe when Picard says to Crusher "You're the loneliest person in the world right now", he was referring to her being relieved of duty. I'm sure Picard could sympathise with her since he must have felt similar isolation during the Stargazer court martial. Saying "You're the loneliest person in the galaxy" would have sounded a tad corny!

• Martin Stahl - Germany

Several days after I sent you the last letter saying that Barbarella - the company which had been ordered by SAT 1 to promote Star Trek and did so in a terrible way - didn't get their contract renewed, I received their latest spaceletter. Obviously they still exist. Nevertheless, the angry letters from fans to Sat 1 about Barbarella gave rise to something; now the spaceletters have become a little better, and finally Barbarella have realised that Star Trek fans aren't stupid. Their new spaceletter even had some information about ST:Voyager and Shatner's Star Trek Memories. Nevertheless I don't like them, it is obvious that they do it only for profit.

To Pete Arnett - I'm quite sure that the photo of Captain Robert April in the ST Chronology was a picture of Gene Roddenberry in the uniform of the pilots. At least, he looks very similar to Gene. By the way, Gene also spoke the part of the ship's cook (about the turkeys) in Charlie X.

• Jill Searle - Shrewsbury

Several people have mentioned the way that cons seem to have changed. I'd been a bit disillusioned and was wondering whether to stop attending, but at Holodeck I had a great time and now realise that what was missing previously was participation. Back in the 80s, certainly the UFP committee used to think up humorous games and activities in which, even if you didn't take

part yourself, you could take vicarious pleasure. I especially remember Star Trek Blankety Blank at UFP '84 or '86 - full of innuendo, but it was a great laugh. In addition the disco always used to be packed and popular and people dressed up for it. At all recent cons I've attended the popularity of the disco seems to have taken a nosedive. I was unable to dance at Holodeck due to stitches in my leg but when I looked in on the disco there were only a few people on the dance floor, as indeed there were at Silvercon and UFP '91.

The big difference at Holodeck was the panels. They made the con for me, being an opportunity to hear the views of fellow fans and a way of participating (even though I did not speak out) rather than watching videos all day. I have spent a lot of time at cons watching videos, and enjoyed them, but my main reason for attending is to be in the company of like-minded people. If you never get the opportunity to share anything with them other than a darkened video room then the whole point of attending is lost. I heard it said at Holodeck that perhaps now so many people are up to date with Trek we'll be getting back to the old style of cons, and events such as panels and quiz games (even the disco??) etc will regain their old popularity. I hope so and that I'll enjoy all future cons as much as I did Holodeck.

I've been very interested in the various comments about 'cliquey cons' and shy fans over the past few newsletters. As a fairly shy fan who has gradually gained confidence over the years, I think the Next Gen episode Hollow Pursuits has something to say about the subject. I think it's difficult for a confident, assertive person to understand the agonies of shyness, and although I believe Barclay was portrayed as over the top, this gulf in understanding was clearly demonstrated in the episode. Geordi says, "You're just shy" and Barclay replies "You can't know". In every shy person there's a confident person trying to get out, and this is a constant source of frustration. It does get better, and there's no doubt that the best cons are the most social ones. If you're unable to talk to anyone you miss out on an awful lot.

Being British, we tend to think that everyone wants to be left alone, and even at a con we still operate on the same basis, in spite of being among what should be a crowd of friends, so what if those of us who were happy to be approached by anyone wore badges saying so? Maybe it sounds daft, but if you're shy it might help if you know a person is approachable and won't mind talking to you. If the wearers change their minds they could always take off the badges! Alternatively, in addition to stewards there could be volunteers acting as 'hosts', again wearing badges identifying them as such, who could be the first resort of anyone feeling lost or wanting someone to talk to. I do think it's a bit of 'in at the deep end' for some fans, and going by my own experience, either of the above would have helped.

Re DS9. I am above all a CT fan and DS9 leaves me cold. I've only enjoyed one episode, and that on a low level. For me the series doesn't have more than a grain of the promise of CT and TNG, and is more like a soap opera in space than SF. Admittedly, TNG has also gone that way during the 5th and 6th seasons. DS9 seems to have also taken on the technobabble hat from recent TNG. Not being a physics graduate, I find it all very dull and unnecessary.

• Joan Verba - Minnetonka, USA

I didn't see anything wrong with the runabout in the TNG episode Timescape because I clearly remember that in Emissary Sisko said in one of his logs that the Enterprise had offloaded three runabouts for the station to use. Unless the Enterprise had towed those runabouts or attached them to the ship in order to bring them to DS9 (either of which I conceded is possible), that means the Enterprise does have room in its shuttlecraft decks to store a runabout. (In retrospect, Timescape would have been the perfect opportunity to show the 'Captain's yacht' which is supposed to be on the Enterprise but has never yet been shown.)

In answer to a question in a previous issue, a 'cuisinart' is a kitchen appliance which blends, chops or shreds food, depending on which setting one uses and which attachments one applies. It's

commonly available in the U.S.

I know that other fans disagree with me, but in my opinion the Genesis device did not create a planet and did not create a star. It is clear in watching the movie that the moon (or planetoid) where the Genesis devise was tested underground had a light and dark side, meaning there was a star in the immediate vicinity (about as close as the sun is to any planet in the solar system). My theory is that the Genesis effect (created by the explosion), when reaching this moon, transformed it into a life-sustaining planet.

• Helen White - Not-as-depressed city (Bracknell)

Yes, it's me again. I'm glad to say that I'm feeling rather better now; many thanks to everyone who sent Christmas cards/letters/good wishes etc - all greatly appreciated.

To David Raper - Re stopping TNG after 7 seasons - I think you'll find that it's the actors, not so much Paramount, who don't want to do a season 8, 9 etc. After all, filming a feature film takes 8 - 10 weeks (approx) and they'd then be free to do other things. Seven years is a long time to be involved in something like a weekly TV series.

To Judith Taylor - Libel! I'm sure I never said Worf was a softy! I just said that he had a 'girly' haircut, which ain't the same at all...

To Pete Arnett - Re the photo of Captain April - I think it's Gene R, because a) it looks like him and b) there's a bit in the Chronology intro somewhere thanking Majel for permission to use 'the photo of Gene'. Any comments, Janet? [Ed - A number of people made this point. We'll try to find out.]

SPOILER ALERT (sort of!) My current favourite TNG episode is Phantasms. Absolutely brilliant, especially the scene with Data, Worf and Spot (the cat). Brannon Braga is insane!

Off the top of my head, here are some of my favourite zine authors; Meg Wright, Sandy Catchick, Kay Stagg, Gloria Fry,

Brenda Kelsey and (if you like K/S) K S T'lan. (I tend towards Spock or Spock/McCoy stories, h/c for preference as long as everybody ends up will and healthy at the end! My very favourite zine is One by One by Janet Kilbourne, which I reviewed in an earlier N/L and which is very h/c. Sadly, it's out of print.

• Vicky Roberts - Formby, Liverpool

To Katrina Heintz - I agree with your comments on conventions - my first con was Contagion '92, where the committee and stewards were extremely helpful, something a first timer like myself really appreciated. I also found that if you went up to people and said, 'It's my first con...' they were only too willing to talk to you and swap 'con stories'. As you said, if you don't tell people, how will they know it's your first con?

To Marysia Kolodziej - Re intelligence. After doing a bit of reading and thinking, I'd have to agree with you, genetics and the environment are probably equal in their influence, neither a greater factor than the other.

To Gloria Fry - I really enjoyed your comments on Classic Trek. Since the reruns started on BBC2, I've been 'reintroduced' to the adventures of Kirk, Spock and Co, and I'm continually amazed at the quality of the shows (considering the budget and technology available at the time). So what if the effects don't match up to those of TNG/DS9? The characters and stories are terrific, and that, as you pointed out, is what counts!

To Bill Taylor - My apologies for my over-zealous reply to your letter in N/L 28 - not quite the spirit of IDIC, was it? I can't say that I agree with your point any better, but a more tactful reply would be more appropriate. Regarding your quote from the Ha Ha Carvings, I can't see what was funny/humorous about your letter, I personally found it rather hurtful.

To Edward Woo (in Twin Cathedral land) - I totally agree with your comments about Kira Nerys, she seems to get better with each episode. Nana Visitor does a great job with the role (witness Duet), especially in

season 2's 3-part opener - the chemistry between Kira (Visitor) and Bareil (Anglim) was electric! More, please!

To Marie I J Park - Re Saavik/Spock's emotional control After rereading your earlier points, I think I see now what you were trying to say, so consider your point taken. (Sorry it took me so long!)

To William Marsh - I liked your comments on cons and videos. You're right in saying that if you have a video source, you tend to spend less time in the video rooms. Unfortunately I don't, so this cuts down (moan) on the amount of socialising I can do. For me a con is perhaps the only opportunity I'll get to see any TNG/DS9 episodes. Re stewarding - I found that stewarding seemed to encourage people to come and talk to me, something that pleased me no end.

• David J Raper - Keyingham, N Humbershire

SPOILER ALERT. Having just recently seen Descent I & II, I must say that I enjoyed them both and was pleasantly surprised to see Dr Crusher in the Captain's chair and wearing it well. She not only managed to destroy a Borg ship but she also managed to rescue the crew, excepting those held by Lore and those trying to rescue them, and to cap it all she even got the message off to Starfleet. All in all, she certainly justified Picard's confidence in her, though I do think Picard was asking for trouble when he all but stripped his ship of its crew for their planetary excursion.

To Kathleen Glancy - If a man can father a child into his eighties and nineties, I have no objection to a woman of 58 or older having children. My only concern is that such parents behave responsibly, as parents; my only worry is that there will be those who will abuse that technology or act without consideration for the consequences of their actions; whether it is a man or woman becoming a parent in what we would consider old age, is irrelevant. The only difference is that now women have that choice as well, if we ignore the matter of paying for the necessary treatment. In either case I would hope that the wisdom of age

would lead to a responsible and mature decision, regardless of the sex of the prospective parent and that the interests of potential children would not be overlooked in the desire to become a parent.

Speaking of age, to Gloria Fry - You're right, why this double standard about age? The original crew may not be as young as they once were, but then who is? Besides, many of the Captains of today's navies and merchant fleets are well into their fifties and sixties and during the second World War whole fleets were commanded by men older than James T Kirk, under far more physically arduous conditions than to be found on a 23rd century Starship.

To Marie I J Park - About us 'knowing' that Picard would survive his capture and torture by the Cardassians. I have to agree with you, I was definitely *not* sure he would survive or that he wouldn't tell the Cardassians everything that he knew to end the pain. As he himself later admitted to Troi, he came close and towards the end the temptation was there and almost overpowering. David Warner as Gul Madrec was quite sinister, for all his affection for his daughter, and quite determined. I am in no doubt that in time Gul Madrec would have 'broken' Picard to get the information; it is only fortunate that he did not have the time.

To Martin Stahl - 'The Other Reality' sounds like a joke and if higher beings are trying to save the Earth by inspiring the likes of Gene Roddenberry, who's been inspiring Stephen King or David Lynch?

Finally, isn't it time Starfleet did something about DS9's defence capabilities or their lack? Either get some decent defence systems or assign a Starship to defend the place. I like runabouts but they are not up to holding off the Cardassians (or anyone else for that matter).

• Marie I J Park - Hull

Firstly, I'd like to open this particular letter with something to chew on with regard to Worf. At the present moment his rank is full Lieutenant and Third Officer aboard the Enterprise-D. However, in Simon Hawke's

novel *The Romulan Prize*, there are *at least two references* to Lieutenant Commander Worf. Although I haven't completely ruled out the possibility of a printing error, more than one does not seem credible. If Worf *has* moved up in rank, as *The Romulan Prize* seems to imply, then how come 7th season episodes such as *Descent II* and *Gambit* I haven't listed him as such?

SPOILER ALERT Having had the opportunity to see *Descent I & II*, I think that it has to be one of the best cliffhanger episodes to date. I'm in full agreement with Zander Bruce's comments in the sense that Beverly Crusher did an excellent job as the de facto Captain in Picard's absence.

The episode had its surprises and I was kept guessing right up to the end. And Picard et al being rescued with the help of a group of Borg led by Hugh was certainly a very good twist. It would be interesting to find out how the Borg will develop should Hugh decide to take on the mantle of leadership, because he does have the potential to bring about order through the chaos.

I must disagree, however, with Judith Taylor's view that *Descent* was being played out for laughs. I, for one, failed to see the humour of the episode in spite of the points you made in N/L 31. How can Data's agonising choice to deactivate Lore for good, or the anger he felt in killing a Borg, be seen as played out for laughter? I cannot understand why you can claim to say that *Descent* was a good cliffhanger and then proceed to pick it to pieces with points that can be construed as a mite too cynical.

To Sarah Irons - What if there had been no Captain Kirk, eh? That is a very interesting question. However, my answer to your questions in N/L 31 would be a firm Yes. I don't think that you can judge Captain Christopher Pike so harshly on the basis of a single episode (*The Cage*) and novel (*Vulcan's Glory*). I have nothing against William Shatner or Captain Kirk, far from it, but I will concede that the Star Trek phenomenon with Chris Pike as the leading character would probably be quite different.

That would apply to the films, TNG and DS9. The impression I gained from The Cage/ Menagerie was that Pike tended to be more reserved, thoughtful and authoritative. It doesn't mean Pike was dull, he wasn't, but does he not remind you more of Jean-Luc Picard than James T Kirk?

And finally, to Ann Coulstock re Frame of Mind. My impression of that particular episode involved the violation of Riker's memory in order to confuse and disorientate him. The actual title, Frame of Mind, actually had two meanings; Dr Crusher's play in which Riker appeared as an asylum inmate, and secondly the use of Riker's memories and placing them in the main frame. I would've thought that the whole point of his shattering the 'scenes' was actually to determine what was real and what was an illusion. It was an episode I had to think over quite carefully, but it proved to be quite straightforward otherwise.

• Sandra Hunger - Germany

Re fanzines - Recently I was able to get some issues of Make It So and I really enjoyed them - pretty good stuff so far, though there could have been some more illustrations. But the one thing I really missed - have you ever thought about adding an editorial comment section to MIS? You could give some remarks on the stories there. The editorial works for Eridani (and other Orion Press zines) for it enables the reader to locate his/her pieces of interest more quickly. I find this quite helpful. *[Sheila - We used to put an editorial in Log Entries, but eventually stopped, and never did start putting one in other series, because when we were putting out zines close together, it was quite an effort to find something new to say each time. What we have started to do is put a short resume of each of the stories on the contents page; this at least gives an indication of what stories each reader is likely to find most interesting. Re illustrations - there aren't many artists in fandom, so we have to space out the illustrations we get. Even many American zines which used to be lavishly illustrated are less so these days.]*

To David J Raper - You really think

Starfleet should trace every step of its off-duty personnel? The UFP is no police state, and Starfleet not a mother hen and its people aren't chicks, either, but well-trained grown-ups who surely can be trusted to look after themselves. Concerning the abduction of La Forge and Troi by the Romulans - both were travelling/attending a conference in Federation territory, and could be considered relatively safe. Wouldn't you think that the Romulans would have brains enough to make sure that no-one would discover them?

To James Connery - Yes, you're right - Second Chances certainly didn't resolve the R/T relationship - it just filled us in on some details of the when, where and why of their separation and gave us a glimpse of how this relationship had been years ago. (Tom Riker was really sweet and romantic.) I consider Second Chances a strong Troi episode; it brings out her attitude quite nicely. I guess that given half the chance by Will, Deanna would jump at it. But I really missed Will's reaction to what happened to him (and Troi) in that episode. I can only guess, but I think that to be confronted with his own double and in a way lose his sense of uniqueness and individuality must have been quite a traumatic experience for Number One! But they didn't show any of this on TV, and there must have been a reaction of sorts. But no, everybody treats Tom Riker as the long-lost brother - which he is not.

To Valerie, Sheila and Janet, and everybody else involved - thank you for producing this excellent newsletter every two months! And hello to Baerbel in Ashford.

• Gaile Wood - Tamworth

At last...! Proof positive that the hallowed pages of IDIC are indeed perused by the cast. And why do I suppose this? Well, what other reason could there be for the reference to dress uniforms looking like dresses in Liaisons? A perfectly valid point brought up some time ago, and, hey, Riker was right - Worf does look pretty... er... I mean HUNKY, in a frock. (Great legs, lads. You should wear something that short often. Not that I noticed, of course...)

To Marysia Kolodziej - A low birth rate

(and death) does not make a stable population. It makes an unbalanced one. You will find that there is an exponential increase in the number of elderly people in society, and whilst this is laudable because of ethics, it also means stagnation. By that (no, I'm not against) I mean that the number of contributors to a country's economic growth has fallen and there are fewer adults in their prime to carry the load. Bad news all round.

However, that doesn't mean I advocate euthanasia, merely a return to more sensible behaviour regarding death. Death has, in our society, become sanitised and something to be feared. Which means the learning associated with bereavement is cushioned. How many of you have seen, held or touched a corpse? Less medical intervention and more dignity, say I.

To Edwin Yau, Philip Morley and t'others - First, I've got to say it. What a daft conversation! SW and ST?

Anyway, this business of FTL travel. Aren't you all forgetting something? Namely a little thing called relativity. Whilst FTL travel is only an hypothesis (and a very useful tool for SF writers per se), thus far no-one has proven Einstein wrong. The speed of light is a constant, therefore to get anywhere PDQ means a 'ship' would have to drop out of 'normal' space to another dimension in order to go vast distances. This in ST is called 'warp'. Effectively, the ship creates a bubble of this other space around it and it is through this ST ships travel.

Also I have to point out that space and time are curved to a greater or lesser extent depending on the distribution of energy and mass in it. The effects are obviously more marked near a massive body such as a black hole (hence an event horizon) which makes me wonder whether the anomaly would be constant through to a hypothetical hyperspace? Which also raised an interesting point regarding maps, does it not? Theories, please, from all you budding Stephen Hawkings out there.

To Bill Taylor - I have never, ever, thought myself superior to all men. No, no

and thrice no! Only *most* of the buggers!

To Judith Taylor - DNA is not simply the gene structure of a person. It is a string of 4 nitrogen bases of which only chunks are the actual genes. Parts of DNA are concerned with stopping, finishing if you like, and starting, the particular set of instructions contained within a gene. Some parts of DNA are completely redundant, but are, nevertheless, replicated during mitosis. On the whole, though, I agree with Ann Peters too. DNA transfer would not help acquisition of a language, but wasn't it RNA that was used?

To Anne Marie Flowers - Perhaps we could compile a list of the most embarrassing moments in TNG and Classic. For me, Plato's Stepchildren is just about the most awful - in particular the Tweedledee, Tweedledum routine. But in TNG it has got to be when Picard sings in ten forward. My ears are cringing just thinking about it.

• **Taruka Quauhtezcatl - Preston**

Firstly, ARRGGGHHHH. Michael Sadler, you get worse each time.

To the idiot from Ormskirk. I firmly object to your saying (by inference) that I dislike vindaloo. You've eaten enough of my curries to know better.

To Marysia Kolodziej - Fortunately I have a Polish penfriend so I had an idea of the pronunciation of your name. Mind you, I'm one to talk. Ah, yes, for the curious - how did I get my nickname? Well, when I was at college some years ago, it happened to be Inti Raymi, the big Andean Festival, and I was in national costume. Things being as they were, I had to deliver my English assignment and turned up to see the lecturer speaking to another student. He then came out of his room and said, "Ah, I thought there was a Bolivian Terrorist waiting for me." It stuck.

• **William Marsh - Atherstone**

To all involved in the strong female character debate - I agree Kira is the strongest female character there has been so far in Trek. I am pleased the producers and writers, etc, have made a strong female, but

does no-one think it's about time for a strong male character? Kirk, I know, is a very strong character but as he's gone now there's no replacement. Riker's too busy keeping his balance to do anything in a crisis and as for Picard, I'll say no more; so now we have Sisko. The day he does anything but snore will be the day Quark makes a loss!

To Andrew Carnegie & Kathleen Glancy - If you listen carefully at the end of Tapestry, Q says that if Picard hadn't been stabbed by a Norsican he would never have taken over the Stargazer when its Captain died, thus proving Picard was not a Captain of the Stargazer, but he was the best available on deep space.

To Jason Wells. NO, NO, NO! Replace the Next Gen crew for a fourth series? That would leave no feature films as it's intended to be in the same time as TNG and DS9.

To Gaile Wood - Maybe Marina Sirtis is a first class actor but even she would have to admit she wasn't hired 100% because of her acting ability. Isn't it odd she was the only crew member without a proper uniform for several seasons? If more viewers will be attracted, TV producers will do anything!

To Ricky Elston - Where have you been, I've not heard from you in ages. Write as soon as you can?

• Dejan Ladika - Slovenia

I wish all Trekkers a successful New Trek Year.

I would like to say something about season six. First, I must admit it was definitely a Troi season. All episodes involving anything more from her were the best of the season. Face of the Enemy, Second Chances, Chain of Command (finally in uniform), some other very good episodes like Time's Arrow (great), The Chase, Suspicions, Timescape and of course A Fistful of Datas... and it was definitely not a Worf season. Birthright is the worst two-part episode of the series, and to me it was an episode without any point. The only good thing in it are Data's dreams and DS9 station. Rightful Heir is also... I don't know... without

anything. Bad ones were both Q, and Lessons. I haven't seen Descent yet.

To Sheila Clark - I can't agree with you about Kira being the strongest, and definitely not with "Captain, I'm so frightened". These words never came across the TNG females.

To Meg Lahey - I think that it's important that the character and the actor have some outside similarities. I mean, Brent Spiner is perfectly built for Data; it would be strange if Data was played by someone too small and too fat. In Odo's case I think there is no balance between Odo and Mr Auberjonois, but after a while you get used to it, and I probably will too. (I also hated his character in Benson.)

• David Hall - Ashington

As one of the many new IDIC members (thanks to a brilliant piece of advertising strategy) I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate everyone concerned on producing a most interesting and informative newsletter.

With this in mind, I would like to raise a point that has troubled me of late and one that I sincerely hope may be answered by the many 'experts' put there, the point being, could someone kindly explain the nature of the 'colour coding system' employed for TNG uniforms. Perhaps navy blue is for medical personnel, amber for engineering and red for the top staff, but if the latter is the case, one has to question why Wesley wore this colour uniform, as, equally, one must question why Geordi, in the episode Interface, from stills supports a navy blue uniform? Confused, but knowing an answer will be forthcoming, close by extending my best wishes for peace to all.

Can You Help?

• **Chris Bailey -** Can anyone please tell me what the fantastic music scores that were played in LESSONS are called (both the piano and flute pieces that Picard and his lover were playing, whilst hiding in the ship's Jeffries tubes!) Chris C Bailey, 52 Druids Walk, Didcot, Oxfordshire, OX11 7PF

• **Mandy J Sampson** - Does anyone know of any zines which feature Charlie Evans?

• **Linda Harrod** - Can anyone tell me where I can obtain recordings by Leonard Nimoy songs/music/poetry - anything!). I am also looking for a book called 'Mr Spock's Guide to the planet Vulcan.' I can't remember where I saw it referred to, and my local

library can't trace it.

I would like to attend a convention in 1994. Can anyone recommend one with a bias toward Classic Trek, and where a newcomer (probably attending solo) would be made welcome, and not be in danger of being 'ripped off'.



JAMES DOOHAN IN MUNICH

reported by Martin Stahl

Thomas Gottschalk is perhaps the most famous showmaster in Germany. Every Tuesday to Friday he has his Late Night Show on RTL, a talk show with prominent people. On November 30th one of his guests was James Doohan.

Fortunately the production company of this show informed three ST clubs about this event two weeks earlier and invited fans to be in the audience of that show. Thanks to the 'fandom hotline' (everybody to everybody), within five days 80 fans ordered their tickets.

On November 30th fans from all over Germany went to Munich before the recording of the show, and it was a feeling like at a convention. Friends and familiar faces in every corner, including several Starfleet officers and a Vulcan. At 8 pm they let us into the studio - at first all fans in uniform because they had to sit at the edges of the audience so that we were not in the picture. A band played to bring us into good humour, but that's not necessary when 80 people from ST fandom sit in the audience. A lady gave us some instructions how to applaud when the guests enter and then Thomas Gottschalk arrived. When he asked who among us came to see Scotty, almost every hand rose; when he asked who came to see him four people answered!

Then the recording of the show began. The other guests were first; interesting, but we didn't pay much attention to them as we waited for Jim Doohan. During a commercial

break, the audience was transposed and now the fans in uniform sat in the middle of the audience (a surprise for the TV audience!)

After the second commercial break, Thomas Gottschalk sat between a Vulcan and an officer from TNG and spoke his introduction to the next guest. They presented some clips from the movies with Scotty, accompanied by Gottschalk's "Space... the final frontier" which he read off from a tablet. Jim stood on a platform, and on screen they made the effect of beaming him in. We fans gave him standing ovations, and he got the most heartfelt applause of all guests. Our enthusiasm didn't stand in the shooting script.

The interview covered the popularity of Star Trek, and he told us an anecdote. On his way back home after a German convention, when he stood in the airport in Frankfort, several Malaysians came to him and recognised him as Scotty. Now Star Trek is popular all over the world. For him, the most important aspect of Star Trek is that people from all over the world communicate. Speaking about ST VII he told that it will feature the Classic crew for the first 20 minutes and then introduce the TNG crew. Also the new series ST:Voyager will be introduced in the movie. On the stage he explained that he will be in the movie when the shooting doesn't collide with his vacation in Alaska next year (when I asked him later whether he will be in it he answered, "If they pay me my money"). He just finished shooting an episode of The Bold and the

Beautiful where he played an evil guest character who drinks a lot and is a Scotsman.

At the end of the interview Thomas Gottschalk said that there were so many experts in the audience and if any one of us had a question he hadn't already asked. We were surprised by this question and so perplexed that no-one raised an arm. Try to think out an intelligent question regarding Scotty within a second! That's not easy. As nobody answered, I raised my arm and asked how they got the idea to bring Scotty into the 24th century in Relics. That was an 'expert question' as Relics hasn't been shown on German TV yet. As neither Thomas Gottschalk nor Jim Doohan understood me, Gottschalk invited me to come to the stage, and finally I landed beside Jim on the red couch. He told me that Ron Moore, who wrote the script, is a big fan of Scotty and wanted to have him in the 24th century, and when he presented his idea to Rick Berman and Michael Piller they both liked the idea.



A REVIEW OF LATCON

or A Fool And His Money Were Soon Parted

reported by Dave Styles

Having sent the children to their grandparents for the weekend, it was rather an early and cold start on Saturday November 20. Seven of us met up at Ashford railway station at 8.15 am (yawn) and, armed with a newspaper or two, we set off for London.

On arrival at the University of London, venue for LATcon, the very first thing that I did was to buy a couple of pirate videos (readers of my letters in the postbag may detect a hint of double standards here) so that friends who couldn't make the trip could watch what we had seen that day. I then had a very quick squint around the dealers' room, but then heard that the video Descent was starting. I dashed out to watch it, and, following that, an episode called Liaisons.

When the show was finally over all fans rushed into the tent again, and a few minutes later Jim Doohan appeared and everybody got the desired autographs. To our surprise, K E Ludwig, Scotty's German voice, appeared, and once again we had them both together. Now the feeling was like at a convention with guest stars.

Unfortunately we had to leave at 10.30 as we had a long way to go back home. The talk show was telecast at 11.15, and when we arrived in Ingolstadt and dropped my pen friend Baerbel (who accompanied us to the show) home again, we arrived just in time to see the part with Jim on the screen. Perfect timing, isn't it? We watched the show with her and then went to the highway for two more hours and arrived home late in the night.

Don't ask me how I felt the next morning - but it was worth it.

After two hours of telly watching I was getting a bit square-eyed. I sneaked out of the video room and went to a stall that had caught my attention earlier. A chap was doing caricatures; he would draw an unflattering cartoon of his customers in ST uniform, or as ST villains, for only £5. I thought I'd have some of that. The result now hangs in my hallway, a cross between Worf and Oliver Hardy!

Before long I got a bit thirsty and sought out the bar. While the ladies with me organised some food I got the drinks in. Unfortunately my usual easy-going manner was somewhat shattered by the vagrant who attached himself to me at this point. He announced that Star Trek types were very logical and would I like to play chess with him. Eventually I shook him off and calmed

my nerves with pizza and brown ale. We soon started chatting with two chaps who hailed from Cambridge. One was in uniform and my wife, being in the throes of making a uniform, started pulling the poor bloke about in order to 'study his seams' as she put it. The chap being mauled didn't complain.

Soon, unfortunately, it was decided that there was more to life than sitting in a bar. (To be honest it was a majority decision, I was out-voted) and we went back up to the dealers' room. While a friend was caricatured I had a good look around. There were three 'proper' stalls, two selling badges, books, mugs, photos, etc, and one selling drawings and paintings. The artwork available on this stall was excellent and I paid £20 for a fantasy portrait of Jonathan Frakes. There were other pictures of various Trek actors and characters and many took my fancy. However, I was a bit unsure about the one of Riker and Troi cuddling, as Deanna was clad only in a skimpy baby-doll nightie. As for the sketches of Tasha and Data doing 'naughties', as my mother would say, well, I was shocked. My wife Tina thought it was art. Perhaps I'm just an old prude. Other stalls sold home-made jewellery, home-printed stories (fanzines), hand-drawn T-shirts, etc. One had to admire the 'Orion Slave Girls' stall; they had dressed and made up for the day. It struck me, as I reached for my wallet yet again, that there was money to be made here.

Time had really flown by; I had spent over an hour perusing the merchandise. Meeting up with the rest of our crew we went up to the fourth floor where a quiz was scheduled to start. The questions were hard, to say the least. Although we only counted 9 questions the questionmaster thought she had asked 10. We didn't argue. We tied for first place with a group who had a real life Klingon on their side, and were just about to take the tiebreaker when our friends from Cambridge sauntered in and joined us. This caused consternation in the opposition - they did not like this. To keep the peace our newcomers promised to keep quiet, and after a wrong answer from our opponents we won a TNG episode guide and a trivia quiz book.

I felt it was time for another video.

There were two video rooms, one for TNG and one for DS9, both rooms being of equal size. There was standing room only for TNG, though there couldn't have been more than a dozen people in the DS9 room. I watched a passable DS9 episode, then came a real treat. The intro to the next episode had it all; excitement, adventure, Ferengis, the Grand Nagus, then the titles ran, and that was it. End of tape. Oh, well, such is life.

Wandering back into the dealers' room I pulled a few faces at the friend who was being drawn as a rather impressive Klingon. Since I had had my caricature done several people had followed suit. It seemed that I was not alone in being somewhat nervous about being drawn. Everyone sat perfectly still throughout the ordeal, in a manner rather reminiscent of Victorian photography. I had pulled faces at a few people while they were being drawn, in an attempt to elicit some response, and I was very impressed at the stoicism everyone showed.

With time pushing on we went upstairs for the last activity of the day, the Dalek race. Six contestants, including yours truly, were supplied with a friction-powered Dalek. The race was between two lines some six feet apart. Dr Who never met Daleks like these; they all had the distance but none had the accuracy. All would head off in circles ending up behind or to the sides of the contestants. Eventually, on the third attempt to get a Dalek to go straight, one of the chaps from Cambridge won.

All that was left now was the draw for the raffle, drawn by a real live Ferengi. (Where did he get the mask?) There were five prizes, a Klingon language tape, a plastic toy phaser, a book and two signed photographs. I was dumbstruck when the first winner chose the tape and the second winner the book. Signed photos are worth money!!!

Leaving the disco that had been organised for the evening we set off for home. We piled into the train at Charing Cross and unfortunately found ourselves between several rival tribes of mindless drones masquerading as football supporters. Whilst mostly harmless, their continual

shouting of "Wooarrgh - Chelsea!" or "Wooarrgh - Arsenal!" or "Wooarrgh - whatever team we support this week" got a bit wearing.

We arrived home at half past eight in the evening, just as the snow was starting to fall. It had been a long day, an expensive day, but a fun day. I had brought home a picture of me as a Klingon, a fantasy art portrait, a photo of Dr Bashir (for Tina, not for me!), a photo of a Romulan warbird, two fanzines, two pirate videos, hologram stickers,

blueprints, you name it, I had it!

Having young children, two adult Trekkers and only one wage earner in the family means that our budget cannot stretch to the hotel expenses incurred at a 'normal' convention. The one-day convention is a brilliant idea! The LAT have scheduled another one day event for 1994; it will be on November 19.

I'm saving for it already.



NEW YORK, NEW YORK, SO GOOD WE INVADED TWICE

(Commander K'Tan sutai Kuragan)

or

BRENT SPINER, BRENT SPINER, SO GOOD I SAW HIM TWICE

(Carol Data Kean)

Creation Con - our last con of the year. These are the voyages of the Klingon and the Android on their 5-day mission, to seek out Brent Spiner, to explore New York, and to have a good time.

Imperial Stardate 9311.25. 09.25. Having arranged for a Mercedes shuttlecraft to pick up Data and myself to take us to Glasgow Spaceport, we were off on our little adventure at warp six. On arriving at Glasgow Spacedock and checking in for our Galaxy Class Starship to Chicago (the Windy City) we were informed that our internal flight from Chicago to New York's Newark Airport was an illegal change-over time so we got our flight changed from 4.30 pm to 5 pm, now flying into La Guardia Airport (you are supposed to have 90 minutes of a change-over of flights to allow you to go through Customs, etc.) Our flight took off at 1.20 BT and after a few drinks and a meal we were soon (3.50 pm) landing in Chicago. By the time we collected our bags and walked about 2 miles we eventually got through Customs - no problem as it was Thanksgiving Day and there was no-one about.

We took off from Chicago at 5 and

arrived in New York at 8.00 pm. Coming in to land, you could see all the Christmas lights on all over New York City (some sight!) We caught a bus into the City and were dropped at the end of the street where our hotel was. Checked in, then went out to explore the City. In bed by 11 pm.

Imperial Stardate 9311.26. Up early - no time to lose! Went shopping before registering for the Con at the Ramada Hotel. Went to Macy's Store and bought a few Enterprise-D Christmas Tree ornaments and a Lamb Chop for Carol's Christmas. Also bought a few of the new Playmates figures (with cards in them). Went to the Ramada and registered, checked what was on. The Con started at 11 and went on till 6; basically 2 guest talks of 1 hour apiece, Richard Arnold's talk, music videos, snippets of actors, auction - not a very exciting con. Not worth the money unless you want to see the big guest actors. Today's were Majel Barrett and Gates McFadden. Went to their talks and paid a visit to the sales room. Majel and Gates were good guests. Got Majel's autograph (Gates and Brent don't sign at cons). Left the Ramada at 6, went for a bite to eat then visited the Empire State Building.

We went up to the 86th floor (it was being renovated above that so we couldn't get any higher.) Some sight - you saw for 25 miles. Carol and I were totally gobsmacked with it.

Got back to hotel for about 11 pm. Bed - exhausted!

Imperial Stardate 98311.27 (D (B?) Day!) Up at 8.30; out for 9 and headed down to re-register. Today's guests - Gates and Brent. Carol was jumping for joy - at last she was to see DATA! Be in the same room as him, breathe the same air... (get a LIFE!!) He wasn't on till 3.30 and as most of the things that were on, we had seen on the Friday, we decided to take a taxi down to Battery Park to take the ferry over to the Statue of Liberty. We caught the 11 am ferry, but there was a four-hour queue to go up to the crown, so we decided to head back to the Ramada Hotel for the Con.

We made it back just in time for an auction. There was a lot of new merchandise that if you bid the cost price you got it. The two items up for auction that I'd have bid for if I had had the money (they weren't accepting credit card bids as the items auctioned were for Comic Relief) were 1) Patrick Stewart's uniform from season one, with paperwork to state it was official (it sold for \$300) and 2) Klingon dagger as used by Michael Dorn in TNG, signed by Mr Dorn, paperwork included.

We paid a visit to the Comic Relief table and bought some autographed photos. Carol bought a couple of Brent Spiner (who else?). I bought Whoopi Goldberg's. We met Majel Barrett again and gave her Jane's, Sheila's and Valerie's regards. She said that Gene thought very highly of Janet.

3.30 came... and Carol's jaw dropped when Brent sneaked on stage during Gates' guest talk. Everyone in the hall was scrambling for cameras to get photos of Brent. I took one of Carol.

Brent and Gates did a double act for about ten minutes, then Gates left and Brent was left to the crowd's asking questions and getting photos.

We left the Con at 6 and headed back to our hotel to watch TNG on TV - Inheritance. Carol sat glued to the TV for an hour. We then went out for a walk down 5th Avenue exclusive and expensive shops. We tried to get tickets for a show on Broadway. NO chance! as it was Thanksgiving weekend and ALL the shows were sold out months ago. We tried to get into Planet Hollywood (the queues were huge!) We asked if they were open on Sunday. They opened at 11 am, so we decided to go back on Sunday. Saw FAO Schwatz toy shop just as it was closing - decided to visit it tomorrow too. (PS - forgot to mention there was a huge fire down by the Ramada - 182 firemen fought it.) Bed, again, about 11 pm.

Imperial Stardate 9311.28. Last day of the Con. Up at 8.30 again and out for 9. It was raining targs and cats. We had to buy a brolly from a street pedlar (\$5 - not bad) but we still got soaked. Paid a visit to Planet Hollywood for a meal. Took some photos of film and TV memorabilia including the Enterprise-D. Also saw Bill Shatner's handprints on the wall outside Planet Hollywood entrance. Headed back to hotel to get changed as we were soaked, leaving brolly in Planet Hollywood. We then visited Warner Brothers' store and passed the Paramount Publishing Building - considered going in to say "We're Star Trek fans" but thought better of it. We headed back to the Ramada for Brent's talk at 5 pm.

Most of the questions were the same as Saturday's, except one - Carol asked him when was he going to come to Scotland for a con. Brent replied, "When was the next one?" Carol said, "Next July." Brent said, "Then I'll come over." He then told a story about meeting Sean Connery, Scots accent as well. (You should have seen Carol's face when she was asked! What a picture.) Brent was on stage for about 1 hour 15 minutes, well over his time. After the talk Richard Arnold asked me to wait in the foyer as he was going to get a couple of trading cards autographed for Contagion's charity auction.

After getting the cards from Richard we said goodbye to the Klingons we met and headed back to our hotel to watch DS9 on TV,

then out for a meal and back for a further episode of TNG and DS9 at 11 and 12. (Carol watched them. I fell asleep.) (PS - someone got shot three streets down from where we were staying. We also saw two taxis crash into each other. A typical day in New York.)

Imperial Stardate 9311.29. Last day of our trip. Up early and paid a last visit to New York stores. Went to a pet store and Carol bought her dog a gift.

We had to check out of the hotel for 12, so we checked out and left our cases with the porter. A further trip round the shops, then we headed back to the hotel for our lift back to the airport. We had booked a stretch limousine to take us to Newark Airport (an hour from Central Manhattan). As we were flying out at 6.10 to Chicago, we met our limo at 3.30 - and what a sight it was! A huge black limo with black windows, TV, bar, etc -

a great way to end our trip.

We took off and headed back to Chicago; off one plane and on to another. We arrived home at midnight, very tired. Went to bed for a few hours, then up to Sheila's to stuff newsletter 31 into envelopes. No rest for the wicked!

Epilogue. We are spoiled in the UK, as our cons are a lot better than those in the States. In the States, Creation Cons start at 11 am and finish at 6 pm. The guests are only on for 2 days of the 3. The American fans cheer at anything and everything. The guests could recite the telephone directory and get rapturous applause; and at \$35 a day for preferred seating, it is a bit expensive, so most Americans only go for one day. Only the daft Brits would go for 3 days! New York is a great place for a holiday (except for the sewers!) We hope to return again some time.



Patrick Stewart Interview

John Dunn, Radio 2 29/12/93 6.00pm

Transcribed by Janet Quarton

JD - This evening's guest is Patrick Stewart and he's with me. Patrick, good evening to you.

PS - Good evening, John.

JD - Better known I suppose, perhaps nowadays, as Captain Jean Luc Picard from the starship Enterprise. How long have you been doing that? Six-seven years?

PS - We're approaching the end of our seventh, and I am told, our final season.

JD - Oh, really. Oh that will be sad news for the fans. So how much of each year is spent in Hollywood?

PS - The series takes about 10 months of each year to shoot. We shoot on film, it's not taped, so every day is a filming day. And we work usually from early July until the end of April. But this year we shall be finishing early, in late March. Because, by the time we

wrap our final shoot on the seventh season, there will already be in production a Star Trek movie of the Next Generation. And we shall literally walk across the street at Paramount from our sets on to the film sets. And the intention is I believe that the sequence of feature films will replace the TV series.

JD - Oh, I see . None the less, as I was surmising the fact is that you obviously haven't had much time to do stage work, therefore, in the past six or seven years?

PS - Virtually none. I've looked for spaces during our summer hiatus but there has simply never been quite enough time to put in a play. Which is why, what brings me here to London this time first saw the light of day.

JD - Do you welcome the opportunity to go back in front of a live audience , or is it a bit frightening frankly, I suppose?

PS - Well, it's never not frightening I think. I mean it's never been not frightening in some form for me, from the very beginning. But it was a necessity once I'd accepted, as I did, perhaps by the start of our second year, that this series was not going to go away. And that the assurances of all my colleagues and so on in Hollywood that we would run for the full six years. Once I'd accepted that I became alarmed that, that my stage muscles might atrophy. That something might go away. And one has of course heard all these stories of actors who went to film or television and then they'd be too frightened to go back to the live theatre. And I didn't want to have that to happen to me, and so at about that time in August, the early autumn of the second season I began to look around for something that would put me back in front of an audience, something that would be simple to prepare, that wouldn't rely on the availability of other actors, or the temperament of other actors, or even a director. And it was then that the notion of adapting Christmas Carol for myself grew. And I began some very simple modest readings of it in Southern California, back in 1988/89.

JD - Is it actually a reading that you do?

PS - Not any more. Two and a half years ago I learned it. When we were preparing for our first season on Broadway I knew that I could not take the version that I'd been performing, which was one that saw me clutching pages in my hand, which I use from time to time. I felt I had to get off the book and so one early September morning I sat down to start learning it. It's two hours of material. And by early November I felt fairly confident that I'd got it.

JD - You did the adaptation yourself, didn't you?

PS - I did, yes. I did the adaptation, and, indeed this is hubris, if ever there was, I did the adaptation and I staged and directed it myself. And in a sense designed it too. Then I was fortunate enough to fall in with two colleagues, Kate Elliot, who is my partner, stage manager and executive producer, and Fred Allen who is my lighting designer. And

the three of us have continued to create what will be on the stage of the Old Vic this winter.

Patrick then talked about Dickens.

JD - So what form does your version take? I mean okay, it's just you - it's a one man show. But what sort of props do you have, what sort of costumes do you have?

PS - Don't have any props, don't have any costumes. But please don't everyone rush to the theatre thinking they will see a naked Patrick Stewart. I am clothed. But I wear a simple suit and a dark shirt. I have five pieces of very plain wooden furniture. A desk, a stool, a table, a chair and a very small lectern, which holds for the entire performance, my script for the Christmas Carol. But I only refer to it for about 10 seconds at the beginning of the performance, and about 30 seconds at the very end. But it remains there on stage, for one thing it is my prompt book, should I ever need it. But it's also there as a symbol to remind the audience that this is a story, a novel. I'm in a fortunate position, unlike most people that deal with adaptations of Christmas Carol, in that I don't have to just rely on dialogue. I'm also the story teller as well as all of the characters, so I can include a lot of Dickens' material. Some of the best bits of Christmas Carol are the descriptive bits, the narrative bits, not just the dialogue. But I can perform those as I move from being Bob Cratchit, or Tiny Tim, or Mr Fezziwig, back into the narrator. And the way we have developed it is that those movements are meant to be in.

JD - How do you cope with the scenes with the ghosts though? Does staging come into it in those scenes or is that narrative again?

PS - The evening is fully staged, I use the whole area of the Old Vic stage, using those few simple pieces of furniture. And one of the problems for me when I was preparing it was in remembering, for instance, I think in the Cratchit's dinner party there are, I think there are nine characters on stage. And one of the things I have to do is to remember where they all are. So I have to have a moving picture of the action so that as I shift from character to character I am where a

person ought to be. One of the hardest things about doing this show, John, has been... It was the case when we took it to Broadway and then when we were looking for a theatre here in London, is to tell people about it. When we say, 'Well, he tells the Christmas Carol alone, with five pieces of furniture, and that's it.'

Patrick then gave an excellent performance of an excerpt from the show. He then went on to explain how he got the part of Jean Luc Picard.

PS - What we don't understand here in England, is that those first three years of Star Trek with Bill Shatner and Leonard Nimoy and De Forest Kelley and so forth, then and subsequently became a very significant part of popular American culture. A very significant part. And then with the films that they made and then our piece, it's threaded all the way through popular culture, in a way that it simply isn't here. And is treated with a respect, almost a reverence that I don't think is known anywhere outside North America. The day that I was actually offered the job, a friend asked me how will it feel to play an American icon? And that's how the Captain, in the form of Bill, Bill Shatner had been seen....

They then talked about the part going to a 'Brit', playing a Frenchman.

JD - Doesn't it present huge problems when you have to play a character that is so divorced from any reality that you know?

PS - But he's not divorced from any reality I know. The only separation from reality is the science fiction part of it, which is to do with space.

JD - But you had to take on board all sorts of fantastic ideas and treat them as normal, don't you?

PS - That's right. But you see, I don't think that's very different from Shakespeare. I'll tell you a little story - just as you've somewhat implied by your last statement, most interviewers in the early days when the series was being launched would ask me how, with puzzled frowns, 'How can you

make this transition from the Royal Shakespeare Company to an American syndicated TV series?', the implication being that it was kind of slumming, or of course that I was doing it for the money. Which indeed in a large part I was, too. Or they would say 'I mean, what satisfaction could you get out of this, and how can there be any connection between the work you've done...' Well one day, in pure irritation at these continued - I believed slanders, I said to this chap, 'Look here - all of those years working for the RSC, all of those years wearing crowns and sitting in thrones, was nothing but a preparation for sitting in the Captain's chair of the Enterprise.' And I got quite cross. But driving away from the studio that night it began to seem to me that actually it was perfectly true. It was the ideal preparation for sitting in the Captain's chair of the Enterprise. Star Trek the Next Generation, it's epic television. It's science fiction; it's not fantasy, of course. That's something that we have to be very specific about. The language of Star Trek, the language of our scripts is not naturalistic language. It's somewhat heightened, it's stylised. Anyone who's heard it at all could switch on a piece of audio Star Trek and would recognise the style of writing. The outfits we wear, they have no pockets for instance. You know I might as well be back in tights, or doublet and hose. So it has a larger than life quality about it. We are heroes, those of us who are commanding the Enterprise. We are 24th century heroes. I remember that Gene always used to say that every generation needs its mythology and Star Trek has become part of necessary required mythology for the late 20th century. So I think the links are absolutely direct.

JD - I'm not going to pursue those. Okay, so it's going to come to an end as a series. Will you then stay in America or will you come home, do you think?

PS - I think that Los Angeles is going to be one of my bases for a long, long time to come. We shall make the feature film, which will take us through to July. I'm planning to take a long holiday, the first one really for seven years. And my next venture will be a stage play here in London. With other actors

and a director. And although I can't speak about the play right now, while I'm here this Christmas we are meeting and finalising all of the plans, so I hope that is going to keep me here in England for at least nine months. This is still my home and this will be a base too, but I think only a base, as Los Angeles will be.

JD - Well, the base protom, until the 8th of January, will be the Old Vic. You opened last night - well, you had a preview last night.

PS - We previewed last night, we open tonight. In fact within a very short space of time we open.

JD - You came over with these most incredible reviews from the Broadway production. What was the feeling like last night? In terms of the relative difference or similarities between the two audiences.

PS - It was quite terrifying. I was apprehensive anyway, I had all those natural fears to do with coming home. You know, particularly with a success which had been made elsewhere. And one is always... I find that people are often suspicious of success achieved in Hollywood anyway. And being on the stage of the Old Vic was awesome for me. I've never worked there. I've only been on the stage once when I auditioned there as

a 20 year-old actor in 1960, with all of its tradition and background. Although it's perfect for our show. For instance we have found documentary evidence that Charles Dickens actually attended the theatre there. He was in the building as well. But I was unprepared last night for the very different quality of reaction that we would get from a British audience. And for the first 15 minutes it was alarming. Those famous words of Dad's Army kept running through my head. I was saying to myself while going on acting, 'Don't panic, don't panic,' because it wasn't anything like the reaction I've been used to in the United States. But interestingly enough we moved towards it the longer the evening extended. And I was very satisfied with the evening finally.

JD - Well, in a sort of a way no doubt you could say that A Christmas Carol is to the British what Star Trek is to the Americans. Part of our national mythology.

PS - Yes. And one of the reasons I think why I was a little apprehensive when I came here.

JD - Well we mustn't detain you any longer, Patrick. Thank you very much indeed for joining us this evening. All success with the rest of the run, until the 8th of January, and for whatever else the year may have in store. Thanks for joining us.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

A CHRISTMAS CAROL

reported by Marion Van Der Voort

Richard and I took his American dealer friends to see Patrick Stewart's one man show of A Christmas Carol at the Old Vic on the first night, December 28th.

We all knew the original book well, and I certainly was rather doubtful if Patrick Stewart could pull it off, as the book was originally published 150 years ago, in December 1843, and even Dickens never acted his stories but just toured England and America reading them.

The theatre was packed, half by fans and half by established theatre-goers, and we sat there staring at a table, a chair, a desk and a stool until Patrick came in. He was wearing a suit and a shirt, no tie, and carried a scarlet-bound copy of the book in his hand. He was obviously nervous, but he spoke the first words of the book to us, unstacked the furniture, and was off!

Many of the audience either didn't know the story, or expected him to treat it with reverence, and they were almost startled

into laughter in the first ten minutes, but after that he held everyone's attention, and at the end there was a spontaneous standing ovation.

Patrick spoke at least four fifths of the entire book, wisely omitting a couple of unnecessary scenes with a multitude of characters, but his depiction of the Cratchitt family, the three ghosts, the Fezziwigs, were triumphs. His whirling about the stage in the country dance to his own music, and speaking without a gasp for breath, showed his vitality and fitness, and his sheer physical

energy gave fresh colour and fun to the old story.

He was superb in words and actions, showing off Dickens' technicolour language, his melodrama, his pathos, his fun, better than any of us had ever seen before, and Scrooge's progress from the bitter, solitary miser to the man of feeling was not only believable but appropriate. Most of us forgot that this was one man and a spotlight, and were surprised when the light went out and we realised it was only a play.

★ ★ ★ ★

PATRICK STEWART'S ONE MAN SHOW - A CHRISTMAS CAROL

OLD VIC, WATERLOO RD, LONDON

Reported by Alan Stephens

When I first heard of Star Trek: The Next Generation, I wasn't too excited. It wasn't until I was told that Patrick Stewart was to be the Captain of the new Enterprise that I looked forward to the new show with any glee. Patrick Stewart is one of my favourite actors and had been before ST:TNG; I knew he would give Star Trek a dimension a less able actor could not. I was proved correct.

It was, though, with a mixture of excitement and some trepidation that I flew down on the 30th December with my friend and fellow IDIC member Dave Green; excitement because I'd finally see Patrick on stage, and trepidation because in all Dickens' canon Tiny Tim must be the most saccharine sweet character and one that has to be handled carefully or one can appear mawkish. (I forgive Dickens this severe lapse into sentimentality because he also created the noble Magwitch in Great Expectations.)

I need not have worried. Patrick handled Tiny Tim - and all the other characters - wonderfully.

The stage is set for Patrick's performance by a table, desk, chair, stool, lectern and a copy of A Christmas Carol bound in red leather. Patrick strides onto the stage and picks up the book, and holds it high. He then picks up the lectern, places this on the edge of the stage and places the open book on top. He then reads one of only two direct quotes from the book. "Marley was dead."

Patrick then held an audience of 1000 spellbound for over two hours, save for a few coughers (myself included, which I apologise to my fellow theatre-goers for, but it *was* December!)

He was assisted in his performance by the lighting design of Fred Allen, especially effective on the first appearance of Marley's face on the door knocker.

There were also some wonderfully comic moments; Mr Fezziwig's Christmas Ball when Patrick played a host of dancers gaily doing Sir Roger De Coverley, or Bob Cratchit's slide down Cornhill or even Scrooge himself laughing out loud - "Really, for a man who had been out of practice for so

many years, it was a splendid laugh, a most illustrious laugh" - on Christmas morn, finally redeemed.

I truly feel sorry for anyone who

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

I'VE ALWAYS LIKED SHIP'S CAPTAINS..."

Janet Quarton, fan guest of honour, Holodeck

reported by Jean Sloan

I will remember Holodeck for the variety of discussion panels I enjoyed over the weekend. Perhaps the pleasantness was when Janet Quarton talked about her experiences of fandom, ably assisted by Sheila and Valerie. It was an interesting session both because I belong to IDIC and only knew a little bit about the committee's history, and because I became a fan at about the same time as Janet, though unfortunately I didn't discover fandom until much later. Anyway, the panel opened with a deep sigh of satisfaction from Nic Farey; he had just taken a swig from his pint.

Janet came to ST through her brother, learning quickly to be a big fan. She audiotaped every episode of the Original series. She spent some time in the Royal Naval Auxiliary Service (a voluntary reserve) and became a Leading Seaman, steering a minesweeper at weekends on the Firth of Clyde. She pointed out that she always loved ships' captains, which was why she was drawn to James T. Kirk, who became her favourite character in the show. She is interested in his relationship with Spock and McCoy, and identifies with him on an emotional level in his feelings for the Enterprise. She sees ship's as individuals, a view which Gene Roddenberry shared.

Janet found fandom through her local library where she learned of the existence of the William Shatner Fan Club. She attended the first mini-con, and the first convention in 1974. Merchandise was homemade, and there was no Trek to watch - there was of course no video. When you had seen an episode on TV you did not know when, or if,

would have liked to see this show and was unable to attend. It was a marvellous experience and we must count ourselves very fortunate to have an actor of Patrick Stewart's capability as the Captain of the Enterprise.

you would see it again.

In 1975 Janet took over the running of STAG, joined by Sheila, Beth Hallam, and later by Valerie and Sylvia Billings. She started writing to Susan Sacket and Gene Roddenberry. She first met Gene in 1977. One evening she got home to find that an American gentleman had been on the phone for her. He rang back and it was Gene. He invited her to bring 50 fans to Elstree where he was filming SPECTRE. Minus Valerie who couldn't get time off work, they all met outside Elstree. They were treated to a meal in the Commissary and then met Gene and Majel, who had a gift for everyone. Then they were shown round the set and finally taken to a theatre where Gene and Majel talked and answered questions. Later Janet phoned Gene to thank him, and was invited back the following evening to the Spectre wrap party, with Sheila and Beth. She kept in regular touch with Gene and in 1986 he stayed with her and her mother for a few days. Q was named after Janet Quarton; also in the novelisation of the Motion Picture there is an Assistant Engineer Quarton.

Janet & Co ran STAG from 1975-1981; they ran two conventions as well as the club, and published fanzines for STAG and their own press, Scotpress. Eventually they decided they needed a break from the club, but they retained their interest in publishing zines, and Scotpress continues. Valerie pointed out that Gene was thrilled by fan writers; he saw ST as a beginning for them, and was pleased that they shared his vision.

In the STAG days everything was

typed on wax stencils, then run off on a Roneo machine. Collation and wrapping took place in Janet's bedroom; Sheila picked up Valerie and drove the considerable distances involved to do the collating - Janet did the duplicating on the landing. Not in the least daunted by all this, infected by Gene's enthusiasm for Next Gen., Janet, Sheila and Valerie started IDIC. Thank you, folks.

To the committee's surprise, the club has grown to over 1200 members. To produce the n/l Sheila and Janet type items on a computer (Valerie mainly concentrates on the zines), saving sections as separate files. Janet lays these out on the document processor and prints proof copies. Sheila and Valerie go through to Janet's at n/l weekends to do the proofreading, then Janet corrects the files, compiles the newsletter and then prints the masters which go to the printer in Dundee. (I bet it is not as simple as it sounds.) The quietest weeks are when the N/L is with the printer/ only a couple of days after it has been posted, the mail starts arriving.

Janet explained that it is difficult to balance different aspects of ST in the N/L; it will get harder when and if the new series materialises. On the whole, content is directed by fans' responses.

MORE REMINISCENCES



MAX GRODENCHIK AT MIDCON

reported by Jean Sloan

Max appeared as Sovak in Captain's Holiday and Rom, Quark's brother, in DS9. He has many stage and TV credits; among his film credits are Ernie in Sister Act and Wilmer in The Rocketeer, which he says is his favourite film role.

Max Grodencik proved an entertaining guest at Midcon. It was his first convention, and he seemed genuinely thrilled with the whole thing. An ignorer of jet lag - he had come from the DS9 set with bits of glue still in his hair - he was lively and

In the early 70's cons were one big happy family. The first con was a bit special. Janet went to the airport with Jenny Elson to meet Jimmy Doohan. They dragged him to London on a bus...

Valerie was at one of the cons at which Gene was a guest. She met him and spoke to him - that would be unlikely to happen in America.

Janet went to the States in 1991 to join the 25th Anniversary celebrations. She and Susan Sacket joined Richard Arnold and some others (including the BSFR group) at the Spaghetti Factory, but Gene was unable to attend as he was not long out of hospital. They phoned him to pass on their good wishes, and Janet did visit Gene during this visit. Sadly, he died only six weeks later.

Postscript

Listening to Janet talking about her fandom activities was fascinating, if I may borrow the word (I prefer Science Officers); it really brought home to me what a phenomenon Trek fandom is...

And a question

Janet, what did your family think about you spending so much time on the landing labouring over a hot duplicator?

enthusiastic. He has excellent comic timing, and he put this to good use when he was leading up to demonstrating the (new) Ferengi scream coming up in the episode Necessary Evil.

He went into acting via writing. At High School he started writing shows but liked less and less what people did with what he wrote. He auditioned at University, and got jobs - "an actor is someone who gets acting jobs". He prefers stage work to TV. A performance is "chiselled in for life by the

camera - it's a little scary". He often feels dissatisfied with his performance on camera, but when the director calls "wrap" it is "a compromise for everyone". He would like to direct some time, but he does not want to think about it right now.

He became involved with TNG when his agent put him forward to read for the part of a Ferengi in Captain's Holiday. He had no idea what a Ferengi was, but his friend Darrell had watched the show and did a take-off for him, so he had some idea what casting was looking for. He had never watched ST. When he was in 8th or 9th grade there had been ST fans in the class, but at home they had watched something else.

When he first went on to the TNG set, he was surprised at the friendliness. Patrick Stewart welcomed him, as he does with all new cast members and guest stars. The punch in Captain's Holiday was Patrick Stewart's idea; he was supposed to beat Sovak up, but Patrick insisted that Picard would not do that.

He auditioned for DS9 with Armin Shimerman, for the part of Quark. Obviously Armin got that, but there was no bad feeling. Max regards Armin as something of a mentor, and they discuss up-coming scenes before they play them, and work out bits of stage business. There is no real time to rehearse on set, which is one of the frustrating aspects of TV work. He and Armin have a lot of control over Ferengi behaviour and style. They can air lines, and if they work they are usually retained.

The Ferengi make-up takes three hours to apply. At first it was in three separate pieces, but now it is in one piece. The Cardassians are worse off; their make-up takes 3.5 hours. There are separate make-up trailers for TNG and DS9, a make-up lab, and a 'bakery' where pieces are set. Armin has recesses built into his head for his ears, otherwise they become painful. Max doesn't have that problem; he has trouble with his eyes, which water; he has to have his eyes anointed with antiseptic cream to stop them becoming infected.

The teeth are a mild annoyance - they have to be removed in between scenes or they cause sores in the mouth. The Ferengi characters usually have to 'loop' their lines (re-record them after the scene has been filmed). With the teeth in, it is hard to put the lips together, so sounds like m and p are difficult to say.

It takes an hour to remove the make-up, then the actors are given hot towels, which is the best moment of the day. The make-up people are highly talented, and give advice on skin care. A perk of the job is the chance to visit THE FACE PLACE...

Max does not know how much work he is going to get - he takes it episode by episode. However he has just been fitted with a new head and costume, which he considers hopeful.

Someone from the audience asked if Rom was written as comedic. That is how Max saw him from the outset, but he was aware that the Ferengi were conceived by Gene R as fierce, like pit bull terriers. He would like to see the relationship with Nog develop, and his secret fantasy is that Rom gets the bar! He would like to get the girl, be the leading man... He gets to be a hero in Necessary Evil, the episode with the scream.

His film heroes are Spencer Tracey, Walter Brennan, Orson Welles and Gregory Peck in The Gunfighter. He watches them to try and figure out what they are doing.

When asked about working with Avery Brooks, Max threw some light on Avery's reputation for being 'difficult'. In the first season, Avery felt as if every show revolved around him, that he was the key to each episode. The responsibility weighed him down, and he was not having a good time during the first season. However as other characters were developed he began to relax, and this season he seems more at home.

The sets on DS9 have undergone some changes for season 2. DS9 films on three stages, with the Promenade as the centre piece. The Promenade has been enlarged

slightly; it occupies an area of 15000 square feet and is 50 feet high. Shop signs in Bajoran have been added.

Max enjoys working on DS9 which has the same family atmosphere as TNG. He is not usually recognised for his ST roles - however once he was auditioning 'in his own face' for something else; disconcertingly,

LeVar Burton, who had never seen him on the set without make-up, recognised him at once...

Over the weekend of the con Max positively encouraged people to come and chat to him. He appeared to be enjoying himself hugely. I would love to see him at another con quite soon.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

SIDDIG EL FADIL

by William Marsh

Although born to Arab parents Siddig el Fadil was born in England and after high school went on to study at the prestigious London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art (LAMDA) where he played the lead role in both Hamlet and Arthur.

After completing his studies at LAMDA, Fadil went on and joined Manch Library Theatre where he portrayed further roles in Brother Eichemann and Sinbad the sailor.

Fadil also had an ambition to direct and gained his first directorial assignment with the Art Threshold Theatre's production of Lotus and the Rats and subsequently Julius Caesar.

Starting to attempt acting again, Fadil

went on to television and soon landed a part in the British TV production of The Big Battalions and A Dangerous Man: Lawrence After Arabia.

The latter show was where Fadil made progress, as it just happened that Rick Berman was watching the show and thought the young actor would be perfect for the part of the young, naive doctor on ST:DS9, named Julian Bashir.

He is thoroughly enjoying his work and his new lifestyle and has done interviews in large magazines, newspapers and television programmes in both the States and the UK. Fadil has also made several convention appearances, of which he did one in the UK earlier this year (1993), and looks forward to coming back.

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DR SOONG - IN DEFENCE OF THE MAN AND HIS WORK

In reply to Rebekah Owens

By Marie I J Park

In N/L 31 the cyberneticist Dr Noonian Soong was compared with Victor Frankenstein in the sense that they had created 'a rational creature' which usurped nature. I consider this to be an unreasonable assessment since the scientists in question created their 'rational creature' under totally different circumstances.

Frankenstein created a 'monster' in the attempt to re-emulate life from lifelessness. But he had rejected his creation, absolving himself of all responsibility or obligation to the being. He came to look upon the creature as a monster and decided that 'he ought to die'. This could not be related to Soong since he had created artificial life by constructing

the functional positronic brains. He went on to build his creations; Lore first of all, followed by the second android, later to be known as Data.

In contrast to Frankenstein, Soong did not disregard his responsibility to Lore; if anything, quite the reverse. His decision to turn off and disassemble Lore was not done at all willingly. The colonists of Omicron Theta had petitioned Soong to do so because, as Soong himself had pointed out in Brothers, "The colonists were not envious of you, they were afraid of you". If Soong had given as much priority to his 'firstborn son' as had been implied in N/L 31, then he would have refused to comply with the colonists' petition. Ultimately, Soong disassembled Lore not as a demonstration of moral degeneration or a refusal to 'mother' him, but because if Soong had not done so, someone else almost certainly would.

Soong had a good idea as to why Lore had behaved in the way that he had. The emotions that were built into him had made him unstable and unpredictable and susceptible to wild mood swings. On the one hand, he was unable to cope with Soong's announcement that he was dying, on the other, Lore made it clear that he felt rejected by his creator. "I'll leave you with your beloved son (Data) and be on my way." He refused to listen to Soong's explanations, even though the cyberneticist had been forced to leave Omicron Theta as a result of circumstances beyond his control, as he told Data in Brothers. "I'd never guessed I'd be running away from a giant snowflake."

The comparison between Lore's early development and that of Lal in The Offspring could be seen as a contradiction in terms. Neither had close female care, yet Lal was accepted by the community aboard the Enterprise-D because of the stability and nurture through Data's upbringing. Lal had encountered difficulty at the school, not because she was an android; instead, as far as the pupils were concerned, she was an adult. Lore, on the other hand, was rejected by the colonists as a result of his unstable and unpredictable manner in spite of Soong probably having to act both as mother and

father to Lore. Throughout the course of a child's life, parent(s) will make mistakes and it could not have been much different with Soong's nurturing of Lore or Data's nurturing of Lal throughout the course of The Offspring episode.

Soong was determined to get to the bottom of the problem with Lore since "you are my firstborn son... you mean as much to me than Data ever did." His decision to construct Data supported his intention to return to Lore's problem; "I'd have spent those years trying to make things right for you." If Soong had rejected Lore, then he would have seen no point in constructing Data. If the colonists were as afraid of Lore as Soong had implied in Brothers, then would they have reacted any differently to Data had he been activated before the intervention of the 'giant snowflake'?

It was Data who had received no nurturing, either from Soong or anyone else, and was not activated until 2338, when he was discovered by an away team from the USS Tripoli. Data's name was as self-chosen as his decision to pursue a career as a Starfleet officer, which Soong believed to be Data's desire to "emulate your emancipators". Indeed, by his own efforts, Data had risen to the rank of Lieutenant-Commander and Second Officer of the Enterprise-D. When Soong learned of his existence, he was probably curious about Data's entry into Starfleet, but decided to leave him to lead his own life until summoning him in the episode Brothers.

The dream sequence and dialogue between Data and a young Dr Soong in Birthright could have illustrated what might have been said "If there were only time". To Soong's credit, he conceded that Data had crossed a certain threshold on his own. The images that Data had projected in the dream sequence were regarded by Soong as "mundane... but it's a start". The remark was not meant as a criticism; if anything, Soong was praising Data's straightforwardness and expressed pride in his achievements. As far as Soong was concerned, Data was truly his son. The dream sequence was not related to, nor did it result in, Data's aggression in

Descent. The change in Data in that episode was not an echo of the effect Soong would have had on him. In this instance, Soong is blameless, because Data's actions were due to the effect that Lore was having on him. It could be argued that Lore's persona had found its ultimate expression, until Data was finally compelled to make his choice; to shut his brother down... this time, permanently. Lore's final words, "I love you, brother", did not sway Data from his course of action.

To summarise: Dr Noonian Soong is by no means a 24th century equivalent of Victor Frankenstein. The comparison between the two is not feasible. In Frankenstein's case, he

created, then rejected, his "rational creature" with no thought for the consequences. Statements such as "There can be no community between you and me; we are enemies" (p 101) and "Begone! Relieve me from the sight of your detested form" (p 103) deemed Frankenstein as the worst sort of hypocrite. As for Soong, he was compelled to disassemble and then abandon his 'firstborn son' due to circumstances that were beyond his control. If he had been given the chance, then Soong would surely have tried to "make things right" for Lore. At least Data was, and still is, proof that "Often Wrong Soong" was  right after all.

STARBLASTER

report by Alfred Harris

Starblaster was the name given to a unique model exhibition dedicated to Science Fiction which was held at Warrington Museum and Art Gallery, Bold Street, Warrington, from 20th November '93 to 8th January '94. I was lucky enough to get in on opening day.

The first model, upon entering, was a 3.5 foot model of Stripe from The Gremlins, and just to the left was a large display from Dr. Who. This had a selection of 'foes', such as Daleks, Cybermen, a Yeti, a Krinoid, etc, all full size, plus a full size Tardis (outside size - the whole town isn't big enough for the inside!)

A range of costumes and props from Blake's 7 was also on show with the original Orac computer and a scale model of the Liberator.

The Star Trek display was not very big, which was a little disappointing, but after a talk with the Exhibition's organiser I do have some interesting news (but I'm making you wait until the end of the review!)

Most of the stuff was from commercially available kits, and what they should look like, especially at the hands of

experts. The only good-sized figures were of Worf and Data, with the 1701-D poised overhead.

The rest of the exhibition was dedicated mainly to work by Gerry Anderson and model-maker Martin Bower, who has worked on 30 TV shows and several films. These include Aliens; one of his 'contracts' was for Space 1999, where he built 86 models alone.

There were entire scenes built from many of the Anderson series (Thunderbirds, Stingray, Fireball XL5) with some of the models used in the shows. A lot of models were from a proposed series called Starguard - one to watch out for. An impressive model was one commissioned for the show, called Star City, an immense model 5 foot long, illuminated and very idea-creating!

With other items from Aliens, Captain Scarlett, War of the Worlds, plus a selection of rare 40s and 50s Sci-Fi mags, the exhibition was a great success. It was further enhanced by over 40 paintings dotted around the place by the well-known artist Kevin Scaife.

Upstairs were all the entrants in a drawing competition by children in the area,

with a large model of the Enterprise made from cardboard boxes and paper tubes hanging from the ceiling. It's good to see we Trekkers are living longer and prospering (multiplying may be more accurate).

All in all, an excellent show; though lacking in Star Trek memorabilia, it was a great all-round attempt at showing all the various aspects of sci-fi modelling.

Now for that interesting news. The



SPIRITS IN A MECHANICAL WORLD

by Judith Taylor & Taruka Quauhtezcatl

A long-asked question is: where do the Borg come from? How did they start? Then one night I was busy reading the novel version of ST-TMP and it occurred to me that maybe V'Ger is the 'father creator' of the Borg race. Two weeks later I acquired the ST Chronology and discovered that Gene Roddenberry had jokingly referred to it and suggested that maybe V'Ger's home world and the Borg home world were one and the same.

After - finally - acquiring a copy of the film I avidly watched, hoping to find anything that I could use to prove my theory. Soon enough, there it was... and this is my theory.

After crashing into a planet of sentient machines, Voyager 6 was rebuilt into a giant craft capable of carrying out its mission to 'collect all the knowledge it can, learn all that is to be learned' then after it has done so it decided, partly from its programming and partly from its own sentience, to go and tell its creator. The craft had acquired sentience along the way and decided that telling its creator was not enough - it had to become one with it/him. (Does this sound like assimilation???)

When, on its journey, it encounters the Klingon and Federation craft it easily assimilates them and does the same with the Enterprise's Deltan navigator Ilia, of whom it

organiser of the show, Cherry Grey (Yes, that is her real name!) is thinking of producing an exhibition solely on Star Trek some time in 1995. Can you help with any addresses of sources of memorabilia or information, etc? If so, could you send them to Cherry Grey, c/o Warrington Museum, Bold Street, Warrington, Cheshire WA1 1JG. (Sensible information, please - not whether you have a collection of cast members' toenail clippings made into a statue of a tribble!)

makes an exact duplicate, so exact that the mechanical device still shows the feelings of Ilia for Decker, leading to the scene at the end where Decker and V'Ger join and the new craft - or is it a being? - moves off elsewhere.

This assimilation behind it, it is conceivable that V'Ger did not arrive back at its home planet. Whether from meteoroid damage or other cause, the larger part of the ship, the major part which included the 'human factor' and V'Ger's programme to 'learn all that is learnable and relay it to the creator' crash landed on a remote world where humanoid life existed.

The only way it now had, with most of its sensor and recording apparatus destroyed, of learning, to augment what it already knew, was by the means it had acquired information from Ilia and Decker - by direct assimilation; the knowledge of whatever life form it met would instantly become a part of V'Ger.

Thus V'Ger, or what was left of him, built a ship, possibly aided by the beings he had already assimilated, and thus began to learn this way. After a while it begins to build a whole new race of cyborgs which share their knowledge so that the sum total becomes greater. Of course, because the programme only said 'learn all that is learnable' it is an infinite command.

What is ironic is that at the end, Kirk says to Spock, "I wonder, did we just see the beginning of a new life form out there?"

If my theory is correct, they probably



STARFLEET AS A MILITARY ORGANIZATION

by Peter J. Carmody

Many people have asked over time whether Starfleet is a military organization. I think this can best be described as a very qualified yes.

To better understand Starfleet one must look to its past to see how it is operating with regard to its present situation. In many ways Starfleet and the United Federation Of Planets can be regarded as a form of United Nations that has finally come of age. Certainly the UFP looks and acts similar to our current UN. It is easy to see similarities to the USA with regard to Earth's position within the Federation, ie it is without much doubt the dominant member of the Federation Council. Starfleet can be almost regarded in some respects as the UN Coalition troops which recently had a "little discussion" with Iraq over territory, and can be seen now in Bosnia acting as a buffer zone with its current civil war, and elsewhere on the planet.

After the end of the twentieth century when Earth had finally stopped fighting with itself and started to go out into space properly, it was realised that protection was needed for the first colony ships as they spread across the galaxy. It was soon discovered that not every race wanted to be friends with humanity and form what was to become the Federation. Races like the Kzin, the Orions and of course the Romulans, who started a war with humanity on seeing their ships near to Romulan territory. Not forgetting the Klingons, a race who fight with each other and anyone else for the sheer hell of it.

It was soon discovered that a military force was needed to protect the fledgeling

colonies and the shipping lanes that connected them. To this end Starfleet was formed with the mandate to protect the new Federation of Planets and their worlds. It was also given the main task of seeking out new worlds and, if they were ready to join, inviting them to join the Federation.

The ships that went out into the galaxy knew that theirs was an important and dangerous task. Witness the fact that of the twelve CONSTITUTION CLASS ships that were sent out only the ENTERPRISE returned intact after her first five year mission. This was a task that could only be given to a military organization, nobody else was set up to deal with this. But Starfleet was no ordinary group; for a start the Captains of these exploration vessels had powers that had not been seen within the military since the days of the empire building of old Earth of the 17th and 18th century. They alone had the power to decide whether to contact worlds or leave them alone to develop along their own path. Humanity had learned its lesson from interfering with races on Earth. Destroying cultures was no longer the way.

Now if a planet was ready to come into the fold, it was contacted first by a Starship; then came along the science vessels and the diplomatic corps, closely followed by the trading ships and the Ferengi looking to see if there was anything worth "trading" with on this new world.

With the advent of more planets joining the Federation, Starfleet was able to turn to its secondary and just as important task, that of Interstellar policeman. Here it worked with the other sections of the Federation, acting as guard on convoys when

new planets were being started, keeping the shipping lanes clear, helping disabled or damaged ships get to port (no AA or RAC to call out when you are light years from the nearest planet). The science departments went about their duties studying anything in the cosmos that moved - and anything that did not move for that matter. Man was finally able to do what he does best, learn all there is about the universe that he is in.

Starfleet was also called upon to act as mediator whenever its members started arguing with each other and ensure that they did not come to blows. In short they became everything that we currently want our own UN to do but this time they have the firepower to back it up.

When the race known as the BORG appeared on the scene around 2350, Starfleet was able to respond to the threat and send battle ships to deal with them. Admittedly Starfleet got its collective tail kicked at Wolf 359; it also showed that there was a meaner race than man loose in the galaxy. It did not want peace, it wanted to destroy everything that the Federation had spent 300 years building, and in doing so showed that the humanities had become complacent in the last few years. This showed that if anything the need for Starfleet and its Starbases spread throughout the cosmos was now more than at any time in the past if the Federation and all it stood for was to survive.

When the Cardassians abandoned their mining station above Bajor, the Federation really lucked out when it was discovered by a Starfleet crew aboard the station that it was near the only known stable wormhole in the galaxy. Here was a chance for Starfleet to show that they were not a bunch of warmongers, but that they could act as

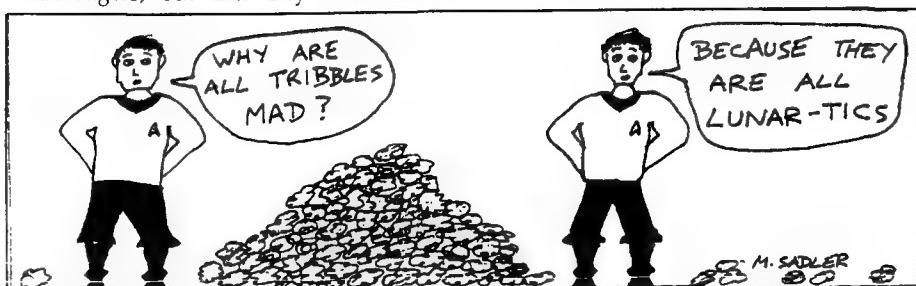
police, customs and security for Bajor all at one time. On DS9 the fleet presence is sufficient to keep a warlike race off a helpless planet and explore a whole new sector of the universe

Overall it is unfair to regard Starfleet as a military organization within the context of our current military set-up on Earth. Whilst it is undoubtedly the armed part of the Federation, its purpose is unlike any seen before. Up to now the primary purpose of an army was to fight for a specific country against another country, usually in an attempt to gain territory. Starfleet on the other hand is set up to defend the Federation from aggressors both within and without its sphere of influence

In a current twentieth century context it is fair to regard Starfleet as the present Japanese armed forces with their orientation after the second world war turned totally to a defensive military with next to no offensive capabilities. Star Trek's Starfleet is in many ways the same only this time they have a extensive offensive/defensive capability. This can be witnessed by the presence of various types of destroyers and heavy cruisers in the fleet. These ships can be called upon to defend the Federation from attack no matter where it comes from.

I think that in this article I have demonstrated my opinion that Starfleet is indeed a military organization but I would love to hear from fans who think and feel otherwise. I can be contacted either through IDIC or my home address which is ;

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(061)343-5530



SPOCK

(or who is this guy with the pointed ears?)

by Gloria Fry

What is the magic of this half-Vulcan/half-Human character who has captured the hearts of millions over the past twenty seven years?

It is difficult to find any one answer but he does reassure us that we might not be alone in this vast universe; that benign, intelligent life-forms may exist. The impact - particularly during the 60s and 70s - of this alien cannot be over-emphasised. He was the antithesis of the 'raving monsters from the stars' so prevalent in movie and TV science fiction until Star Trek, and recently resurrected so successfully in all its lurid xenophobia by the 'Alien' movies. During a time when segregation and racial attacks in the U.S.A. were commonplace, Spock taught the viewer that to be different was not menacing but attractive, to be alien was something we all could identify with - a lesson still valid today.

In the Star Trek universe, all races and species cooperate in a democratic federation of planets. The starship Enterprise is a microcosm of that alliance; a place where all are respected for their abilities, where prejudice rarely raises its ugly head, and is quickly slapped down if it does appear. e.g. Lt. Stiles in 'Balance of Terror.' Spock was the most important character in Star Trek, and Gene Roddenberry fought to keep him there, knowing the importance of showing an alien working with Humans, and having a spokesman who could comment on the Human race from a logical viewpoint.

What do we know about Spock?

He is the son of a Human teacher and a Vulcan ambassador, his very existence surely only made possible due to highly advanced, probably experimental genetic engineering by scientists and doctors of the Vulcan Science Academy. Physically he is Vulcan due to his father's genes being dominant but

he has strong emotions, inherited - he believes - from his mother. He has spent his life attempting to repress them but it appears that he has finally begun to accept his dual nature. Like many hybrids he is probably superior to both his parents but he may well be sterile.

Spock did not find acceptance on Vulcan, and was rejected by his peers because of his Human heritage. He and his father disagreed over his choice of career and did not speak for eighteen years. Would a proper Vulcan son have challenged his father? It is likely that Human rebelliousness impelled him to join Starfleet as Terran children have defied their parents for centuries, running away to join the navy or army.

In Starfleet he found a place for himself. Accepted purely for his skills as a Science Officer, he served with Captain Pike for many years, yet he was always a loner until Captain Kirk took command of the Enterprise. The two men, one isolated by the responsibilities of command, the other by his own choice and the fear of his hidden emotions, somehow forged a bond of friendship and learned to work together, becoming the most successful command team in the Fleet. Spock, the one who had been alone for so many years, found a friend who would willingly risk life and career for him.

Vulcans are intensely loyal to their commanders. In this, Spock is no exception, but under Kirk's particular charm he was able to unbend from his icy Vulcanity to participate in verbal repartee with his Human friend, and show a part of his nature the viewer would otherwise never suspect. In the episode 'Amok Time' we are allowed to see the depth of his commitment to Kirk when after 'killing' his Captain, he states that he will not long survive him. In Starfleet,

and presumably the Federation, the death sentence for such an offence has long been abolished, so we can only assume that Spock would will himself to die, unable to live with the grief and guilt of his crime. His joy on discovering Kirk alive is one of the most delightful scenes in all of Star Trek.

With McCoy he found an adversary who gradually became a valued friend despite the constant bickering. With Uhura he discovered someone to share his musical talents, and even taught her to play the Vulcan lyre. He inspired Christine's desperate love of him, a matter he did not know how to deal with.

Spock's attraction to women is a documented fact. What makes him so alluring to females of all species? Is it his satanic appearance or telepathic ability? Or his protective strength, his alienness, his intelligence or concealed emotions? Is it the hidden fire occasionally glimpsed beneath that cool exterior? Perhaps women believe he can give them the excitement and satisfaction the mere Human male is incapable of supplying. Would Spock be a superior lover? Perhaps the great science fiction writer Isaac Asimov summed up Spock's appeal when he stated that our Vulcan is a security blanket with sexual overtones, and to be smart is to be sexy.

The women in Spock's life.

Leila Kalomi - Spock needed the spores before he could respond to her but their relationship appeared more playful than passionate.

T'Pring - Spock's betrothed apparently felt nothing for him, despite the fact of the bond drawing him to her. After that incident he seemed unconcerned about her, so the childhood locking of minds must have been dissolved or severed.

Zarabeth - This beautiful prisoner only affected Spock due to the time displacement. He had to revert to a Vulcan of five thousand years past before he even noticed her, yet he was reluctant to leave her. Even on his return to the present he seemed regretful but

perhaps he had not fully thrown off the effects caused by his regression.

Droxine - This stunningly 'undressed' beauty seemed to prefer his intellect, but there was little time to do more than mildly flirt.

The Romulan Commander - This dynamic woman fell hook, line and sinker for Spock. At first he tried to deceive her but it appeared that he was highly attracted to her, perhaps by her vulcanoid strength and power as a Fleet Commander. She is the only female he has encountered who is, perhaps, his intellectual equal.

Spock's special Vulcan abilities have saved the ship and crew when ordinary methods would have failed. e.g. "Spectre of the Gun", "Paradise Syndrome", "Operation Annihilate and most notably when he made the ultimate sacrifice in ST: The Wrath of Khan. Kirk's own self-sacrifice for Spock in "Amok Time" was an indication of his feelings for his friend but the events of "ST: The Search for Spock" showed that the other main characters were equally willing to give up their futures for the Vulcan. So what does all this say about the supposedly non-emotional alien? Only this - that he inspires the greatest respect, love and admiration from all who are privileged to know him.

What of the actor who created this role? Leonard Nimoy has always specialised in playing the outsider, and used his unique talents to bring life to the most alien and unusual outsider ever invented. During the making of the series it was noted that he gradually became Spock as the make-up was being applied. He stayed in character almost all of the time, not relaxing out of the persona of Spock until the Sunday, then returning to it the following day. He perceived people and situations as Spock not Nimoy. The Vulcan changed the actor's ideas and philosophy.

How many roles can do that for an actor? Could any other actor have given Spock the integrity and believability he did? Would Spock have become the legend he now is without the sense of realism the actor

instilled into the part? A final question. Was this metamorphosis of Spock and Nimoy the reason for the character's impact on us all?

Spock is the most improbable hero of the 20th century. A hybrid being with green-tinted skin, pointed ears, super strength,

telepathic powers; an 'unemotional' genius who continually shows his compassion for others. He is bred to peace. No monster from the stars is he but the alien-brother we would all like to feel is out there somewhere to help us.



CROSSWORD

by Taruka Quauhtezcatl

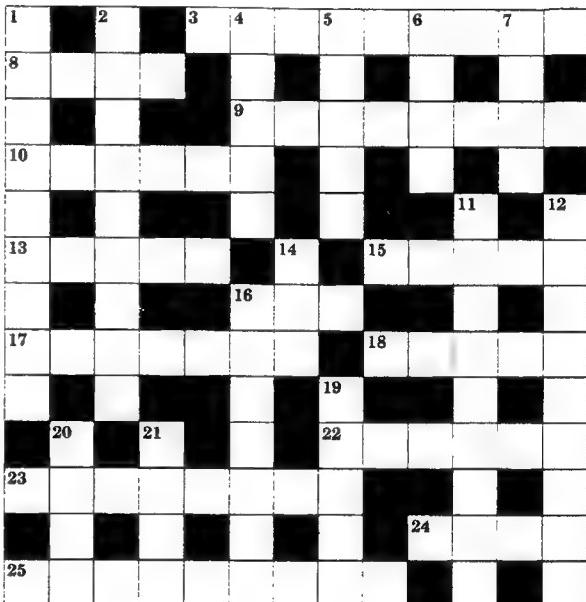
Clues

Across

- 3) Vulcan ritual of refusion 3-3)
- 8) Under Borg control, no-one would be this (4)
- 9) Thelin and Thelev's race (8)
- 10) See 18 across
- 13) That of Beta III was called Landru (5)
- 15) The Nagilum was found where silence has (5)
- 16) Word substituted for 'time' in a TNG episode title (3)
- 17) Type of star which gives no light (7)
- 18) and 10 across. Actor known for avoiding conventions and interviews (5,6)
- 22) Lore was in communication with the silicon one (6)
- 23) Under the terms of this treaty the Klingons were allowed on Station K-7 with disastrous results (8)
- 24) Length x breadth (4)
- 25) Originally said to be Riker's middle name (9)

Down

- 1) First episode directed by Jonathan Frakes (9)
- 2) Name of the giant invented by Walter Koenig (9)
- 4) At a distance, as Riker and Spock were from their fathers (5)
- 5) Not yesterday or tomorrow (5)



- 6) One property of the objects collected by Kivas Fajo (4)
- 7) The team led, normally, by Riker (4)
- 11) Those of Triskelion were disembodied brains (9)
- 12) Tomorrow described as this due to a black hole (9)
- 14) Type of storm in which Ben Finney was presumed dead (3)
- 16) Name shared by a tyrant and a cyberneticist (7)
- 19) Nationality of Uhura (5)
- 20) By means of which a holodeck program can be adjusted (4)
- 21) Computer who ruled Gamma Trianguli IV (4)

SPACE VESSEL WORD SEARCH

by Alex Pidd

Botany Bay	Kobayashi Maru
Bounty	Hood
Defiant	Nomad
Enterprise	Phoenix
Farragut	Reliant
Galileo	Stargazer
Grissom	Victory
Hathaway	Vger
Horatio	Yamato
Horizon	Yorktown
Melbourne	

The Captain and 1st Officer of NCC-1701 A and NCC-1701 D are also in this puzzle.

Solution on page: 77

E	E	P	E	D	E	N	R	U	O	B	L	E	M	K
U	S	S	N	O	Z	I	R	O	H	Q	R	B	R	V
G	R	I	T	D	Y	T	N	U	O	B	G	Q	E	N
W	A	A	R	A	T	U	G	A	R	R	A	F	L	K
H	M	L	M	P	R	K	O	V	V	I	B	Y	I	T
D	A	O	I	I	R	G	H	Y	Y	G	A	F	A	Y
I	E	U	S	L	H	E	A	Z	A	B	E	O	N	A
K	P	F	V	S	E	S	T	Z	Y	M	Q	R	T	W
H	I	N	I	I	I	O	A	N	E	I	A	M	M	A
O	C	R	X	A	C	R	A	Y	E	R	U	T	L	H
R	A	Y	K	H	N	T	G	M	A	Q	O	Q	O	T
A	R	O	O	V	O	T	O	F	B	B	D	G	M	A
T	D	O	S	B	V	P	X	R	S	P	O	C	K	H
I	D	N	W	O	T	K	R	O	Y	R	I	K	E	R
O	G	K	P	H	O	E	N	I	X	N	O	M	A	D

CLASSIC TREK QUIZ

by David J Raper & Marie I J Park

- 1) Who was the fourth Captain of the USS Enterprise NCC 1701?
- 2) Name the flagship of the Klingon squadron destroyed by Vger in ST:TMP.
- 3) Who was Kruge's First Officer in STIII:TSFS?
- 4) What fear do Dr McCoy and Dr Pulaski share?
- 5) What was the name of the Klingon commander in Day of the Dove?
- 6) What type of sword did Scotty carry in Day of the Dove?
- 7) Who did Sulu think he was in The Naked Time?
- 8) Name the child in Friday's Child.
- 9) What part of Mr Spock's anatomy did the Horta find attractive?
- 10) Who was the communications officer assigned to the USS Excelsior for STVI:TUC?
- 11) What was the name of the Vulcan science officer assigned to the USS Enterprise in ST:TMP?
- 12) How did Kirk defeat the Gorn in Arena?
- 13) a) Who said, "I will not be consort to a legend"?
 - b) In which episode were these words spoken?
- 14) Who was Christopher Pike's commanding officer in The Menagerie?
- 15) Who tortured the transporter chief in Mirror, Mirror?
- 16) How many times has Scotty called his Captain by name?
- 17) What is Gene Roddenberry's other name?
- 18) Name one of Khan's henchmen in Space Seed and STII:TWOK.
- 19) "For hate's sake I spit my last breath at thee."
 - a) Who said it?
 - b) When were these words spoken?
 - c) Which classic novel did the quote come from?
- 20) In which episode did Spock use McCoy's nickname 'Bones'?
- 21) Who made use of Kirk's body in Turnabout Intruder?
- 22) In STIV:TVH, what was Spock's reply to Gillian's question, "Are you sure you won't change your mind?"?
- 23) In Journey to Babel, which father and son share the blood type T-negative?
- 24) In Friday's Child, what explanation did Kirk offer to Spock for the use of baby

language?
25) In The Immunity Syndrome, which

Starship was manned by
Vulcans? Answers page 77



HOW OLD IS JEAN-LUC PICARD?

by Paul Hulford

Many people have speculated as to Captain Picard's age, but it has never been quoted in an episode. I intend to show, with the help of episode references, that he is - as of season 6 - 64 years old.

In the episode Conundrum, Geordi displays the crew manifest. First up is Picard, Jean-Luc, Captain. Date of birth - 13th July 2305. Entered Starfleet Academy 2322, graduated 2327. Parents, Maurice and Yvette. In the first season episode The Neutral Zone, Data tells their unfrozen guests that the year is 2364, and as we know, seasons of TNG are regarded as years IN TNG, thus season 6 is set in the year 2369.

These dates do seem about right. We can assume that Picard tried to enter the Academy at 16, and failed (as he confessed to Wesley in Coming of Age). He reapplied the next year and was admitted at the age of 17. Brilliant students are often troublesome and in the episode Samaritan Snare he did describe himself as 'cocky as hell'. This probably accounts for the extra year he spent at the Academy.

He graduated in 2327 at the age of 22 (in First Duty, he reminded Boothby that he was from the class of '27).

He then proceeded to climb up the line of command until he got his first command,



TO CLOAK OR NOT TO CLOAK

by Matthew Ingrouille

This is my first ever article. I write because I feel that the Federation Starships should have the technology to cloak. I obtained some blueprints of an Excelsior class Starship (not the good ol' NCC 2000 herself). This Excelsior class was the USS Ingram NCC 2001. In the cutaway design it had a

the Stargazer. He lost that in the year 2355 at the age of 50. The first season episode The Battle states that he lost the Stargazer 9 years previously). Command of the Enterprise was assumed in 2364 at the age of 59.

Now some would say that as he will be 65 at the end of the seventh season, and that season is the last of TNG, it is the perfect time for him to retire. I disagree. I would certainly not put Picard on the scrap heap yet; he obviously has many years ahead of him. I think that the above dates give a little credence to my belief that working lives are much longer in the 24th century. Now, Sheila, do not get worried. I don't suggest that people work harder OR longer, just that the work is spread over a longer period of time. In Relics, Troi told Scotty that poverty had been abolished a long time ago. I think that unemployment may have been too. The more people there are, the more the jobs are shared, giving greater leisure time to all. No-one need work overtime to earn a crust; the burden is shared by everyone in the Federation.

If anybody else is interested, Beverly was born in 2324 (45), entered the Academy in 2347 and graduated in 2351; Troi was born in 2336 (33) and entered the Academy in 2355; Data was at the Academy from 2341 - 2345.

cloaking device pictured. This started me thinking.

I know that many people say - and they're right - that book or blueprint ST fiction is not always the same as TV ST fiction. In 'Mr Scott's Guide to the Enterprise

and Worlds of the Federation', it clearly states that fact inside the front cover. These blueprints were meant to have been made in between the original TV time and the TNG time. So that meant that the Federation most probably got the cloaking device from the Klingons. So - why haven't the Klingons given the Feds a cloaking device in TNG? It would certainly be very valuable to them. Picard wouldn't have had to get a Klingon ship to deliver him safely to Romulus. The cloaking device would also serve well against another Borg attack.

I'm sure Geordi and Scotty, now in the 24th century, could come up with a way to



THE UNIVERSAL TRANSLATOR

by Judith Proctor

The universal translator is one of those items that is widely known to exist, but nobody ever gets to see. I have seen claims that the item used by Captain Kirk and the Gorn captain in Arena is a Starfleet issue universal translator. Codswallop! Kirk thought that it was a recorder of some kind, as is evidenced by the fact that he was using it to keep his log. If he had thought for a moment that it was translating into Gorn, he wouldn't have spoken a word into it. That the item was provided by the Melkotians and was a translator is beyond doubt, but it was NOT a Starfleet translator. We have to look elsewhere for evidence of the standard issue translator.

Nobody is ever seen carrying anything that is referred to as a translator, the only items of standard equipment are phaser, tricorder and communicator. The phaser can easily be ruled out, Kirk never carries a tricorder in spite of being the one who does most of the talking, which leaves only the communicator to be tied in to the universal translator. However, there are numerous episodes, (The Paradise Syndrome for example) in which Kirk loses all his equipment including the communicator, and is still able to talk easily to the natives. This leaves only one possible answer, the

fire when cloaked. But I'm sure I, like other fans, would get bored by seeing the Enterprise get out of trouble by using a cloaking device. If the Feds did obtain the cloaking technology, they would share it with other Federation members. Then nearly every planet would be able to cloak. To some the idea of cloaking might drive them to conquering other worlds.

I would like to hear other people's views on the matter. Do you think the Feds should be capable of inventing their own cloaking device? And if so, should they use it?

translator is some kind of implant, probably embedded in the skull. This makes good sense, as when Starfleet personnel are trying to pass as natives of a planet, they can't very well go around carrying visible gadgets that are alien to the place. An implant can't get lost in a fight, and cannot be stolen by a thief.

The translator needs lot less power than a communicator (it doesn't need to be able to contact a ship in orbit) and hence is a very small unit. It has an enormous memory, but luckily data storage is very efficient in the 23rd century.

There are a large number of episodes where the Enterprise crew have no difficulty in communicating with the natives of planets which have never before been contacted by the Federation. These planets fall into two groups, those advanced enough to have electronic communications, and those that are more primitive.

Where a planet has electronic communications, the Enterprise can study these at leisure and allow the translator plenty of time to work out the meaning while the ship is still in orbit. Primitive worlds present a different problem, sometimes a survey team will go down to make initial

contact and to study the language, but there are occasions where Kirk, Spock and McCoy are the first Federation members ever to step on the planet. How then, does the translator know how to handle the language?

This is where the Preservers come in. The Preservers were responsible for settling Humans all over the galaxy, evidence the enormous number of planets with Human populations. Sometimes these are still recognisable cultures, such as the

Amerindians in *The Paradise Syndrome*, sometimes they have changed and developed. However, having their roots on Earth, their languages too have their roots on Earth. The translator is of course already programmed with all Earth languages, so that whenever one of these is encountered, the translator already knows it. Hence Kirk could talk to Miramanee without difficulty, because the translator already knew Algonkian (or whichever Indian language she spoke).



KEIKO ISHIKAWA O'BRIEN

by Edward Woo

This character is played by actress Rosalind Chao, and is one of TNG and DS9's regular semi-regular Star Trek parts. I think her part is, so far, under utilised, especially in the first season of DS9 as she appears in only three episodes. Her disappearance is explained by either visiting relatives, en route to Earth or on the planet Bajor with the school children. I would love to see her role expanded and we hear this role will be developed in the 2nd season of DS9.

The character of Keiko was first introduced in Data's Day. She is about to marry Chief O'Brien and does so despite the hiccups on the way. We discover she is a botanist and plays the clarinet. The idea of marriage on the Enterprise was introduced to TNG to say life continues, even in space. Originally they had considered marrying Picard off, however the Miles/Keiko marriage solved the problem.

Keiko's three most prominent episodes to date are Disaster, Power Play and In the Hands of the Prophets. In Disaster she had to cope with her dramatic childbirth with the help of a bemused Worf. These scenes were very funny, and finally baby Molly was born.

For Power Play there was a dramatic shift with Miles, under an alien influence, threatening her and the baby. She, in the traditional Star Trek manner, was willing to give up her life to stop the aliens. At the end of the story Miles apologised for his actions,

even though he had no choice in the matter.

In In the Hands of the Prophets, Keiko's class comprises Bajoran, Federation and other races. I can definitely see how her pure science can come into conflict with Bajoran religion. Her school is destroyed and her life threatened. She does show a sense of humour, making a play to Miles about his new assistant Leela.

She has some lesser parts as well. In The Wounded, Keiko attempts to teach Miles about the healthy nature of Japanese food whilst Miles makes dinner for her in the Irish way. And there's a nice touch in In Theory where they are both at dinner with Jenna and Data. In Violations she undergoes telepathic recall about her grandmother's beautiful Japanese writing.

Keiko appears briefly in Rascals, and her change in appearance to a schoolgirl upsets Miles and daughter Molly so she can't even read a bedtime story to her daughter.

In A Man Alone she feels her botany skills are being wasted on DS9. She does not like the station even though she has given up her career for Miles' promotion. She eventually finds a place by becoming the resident teacher on DS9. She gets a school bell as a present from her husband.

So far the character has been seen only in small scenes and has not really had a

chance to develop properly. I hope the makers of DS9 will give her a bigger role in the series to come. We can, after all, send her to visit other planets in the Gamma quadrant

on botany trips - as Miles said, the new quadrant must be full of new plant life to investigate and catalogue!

★ ★ ★ ★

CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE FURRED KIND

The wide variety of animals encountered in Trek

by Taruka Quauhtezcatl

Has anyone noticed how many animals actually appear in Trek? In backgrounds, or for a little atmosphere, they seem reasonably common if you look closely enough. For convenience' sake I've divided those which can be divided into standard zoological classification.

INVERTEBRATES - Leading this must be the single-celled creature in The Immunity Syndrome. No-one knows what it is or what it does, except that it's a danger.

Close behind are the single neuron creatures in Operation Annihilate which do at least have a highly destructive purpose. Credit here to Wah Chang for making them so believable.

The other single-celled creature is the 'micro-brain' from Home Soil, which is proven to be highly intelligent although not registered as 'life as we know it', to borrow a phrase.

Slightly larger and more destructive are the Ceti Eels in Wrath of Khan. Their habit of causing madness by twining round the brain stem is enough to make anyone shudder.

Their second cousins are, of course, the blue-gills in Conspiracy, though how a creature like that can have what is obviously a reptilian mother-creature is beyond me. Good bit of alien-type effects work, though.

Crawling up the evolutionary ladder in fits and starts are the unidentified thingies in Search for Spock - you know, the ones which so kindly attack Kruege when he investigates Spock's casket. Are they malevolent or don't

they like Klingons?

The slug-like Lactrans from Eye of the Beholder deserve a mention, as they are intelligent enough to realise their mistake.

And talking of slugs, I suppose I'd better include Odan, though he is only half of a symbiotic creature. I can't quite get the hang of the Trill.

Farpoint Station itself proved itself to be a jellyfish-like creature, though a shapeshifter.

And last but not least, Miles O'Brien has a pet - a tarantula! He shows this to a terrified Barclay at the end of Realm of Fear.

FISH - most notable is the revolting meal served to the fat Ferengi in Unification.

Livingston, Picard's rather lethal lionfish, is seen in many episodes either swimming about or clinging to rocks in his tank.

The Antedians of Manhunt could just be included here, as they are sufficiently fishlike.

REPTILES - The snakelike Selay of Lonely Among Us spring immediately to mind, along with their cousins the Gorn (Arena).

A crew-woman is changed into a lizard in Charlie X by a slightly irate Charlie Evans.

The creatures Alexander tries to save in New Ground are also faintly reptilian, though obviously these are puppets, as is the semi-reptilian Lalping in The Most Toys.

What to think of Kukulcan (aka Quetzalcoatl) in How Sharper Than a Serpent's Tooth I cannot imagine. The actual idea is from a drawing in Teotihuacan, Mexico.

BIRDS - Only ever seen in the holodeck, eg We'll Always Have Paris where pigeons fly up as Picard enters the cafe.

MAMMALS - Aquatic. One word - whales. These, of course, feature largely (in more ways than one) in The Voyage Home. Well, I suppose humpback whales would be more accessible than blue whales. The models are extremely good.

DOGS - A few, not many. The 'space spaniel' in The Enemy Within is one which is overlooked frequently. And poor Beverly Crusher is changed into a red setter by Q in True Q.

The semi-reptilian semi-indeterminate Klingon targ is included here. It makes two appearances - besides Kruge's chair in Search for Spock and on the Enterprise bridge in Where No One Has Gone Before. The former was a puppet, the latter a pig with a Michael Westmore makeup job!

A group of labrador (I think) puppies appears in True Q, brought into existence by Amanda.

Does the Klingon 'hound' from The Undiscovered Country drop into this class, I wonder. It looks like a cross between a polar bear and a Mugato.

CATS - Hi, Spot! This large ginger feline is possibly the best-known cat in TNG, appearing as he does in Data's Day, In Theory and A Fistful of Datas. The same animal portrayed Tasha Yar's cat in Where No-one Has Gone Before.

Miles O'Brien remarks in an episode that he once owned a Circassian cat.

The black cat called Isis in Assignment earth is the same feline as the monster cat in Catspaw. At least, they look the same.

The catlike Kzin are seen in the animated episode Slaver Weapon and in Time Trap.

A tiger appears quite noticeably in Shore Leave.

HORSES - Most obviously, these appear in The Final Frontier where Kirk and Co steal a dozen horses to get to Paradise City.

Picard is seen riding a horse in Pen Pals, and that wasn't a stunt double; Patrick Stewart is a good horseman.

Yet another Enterprise Captain, this time Christopher Pike, is seen with his horses in one of the dream sequences in The Cage.

And we dare not forget the Black Knight and his horse in Shore Leave.

There is a very good bit of carriage driving as Data dashes to the rescue with a four-horse coach in Time's Arrow II.

OTHER - Goats are among the many animals brought aboard the Enterprise by the Bringloidi in Up The Long Ladder. I believe cattle and chickens were also included.

Thought not seen there is a reference in The Next Phase to dolphins aboard the Enterprise. According to Sternbeck and Okuda, these creatures are responsible for Guidance and Navigation research.

On a table in the spacedock bar in Search for Spock there is another small furry creature, called a tribble. These also turn up in True Q when Q offers one to Worf (with predictable results). These little furballs made their debut in The Trouble with Tribbles and have, it seems, remained popular. Only 500 were actually made, it just seemed like there were thousands!

In The Cage, a rather hairy monster is seen in another cage. Pike also has to fight it when the Keeper apparently turns into it. This was a costume recycled from the Outer Limits episode Fun and Games, which in itself was based on Frederic Brown's story Arena.

Is the Mugatu supposed to be friendly or not? It's nice, fluffy, but possessed of a fearsome bite, as Kirk finds out in A Private Little War.

Vulcan, too, it seems has its fair share of strange creatures. In Journey to Babel, Spock admits to owning a sehlat which is a bit like a teddy bear - with six-inch fangs. In Yesteryear we see the sehlat, and also the venomous le-matya, a kind of sabretooth

tiger with poisonous claws.

Do you want me to include the white rabbit from Shore Leave?

These are but some of the many sentient and non-sentient creatures encountered in Trek. I hope to cover humanoid aliens, non-humanoid aliens and shape-shifters at a later date.

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IDIC RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

For Period 1/12/92 - 30/11/93

	<u>Receipts</u>		<u>Payments</u>
Opening Balance		£ 952.25	
Memberships	£9378.97	Postage	£3334.82
Sales	£1885.20	Printing/Stationary	£6570.37
Misc	£ 30.38	Misc/Computer	<u>£1058.08</u>
Total Receipts	£11294.55	Total Payments	£10963.27
	£12246.80	Balance in hand	<u>£ 1283.53</u>
			£12246.80

IDIC GUIDE DOG FUND - Period 1/12/92 - 30/11/93

Money C/F	£ 623.35	Paid to Guide Dogs Association	£ 1000.00
Donations/Raffles etc.	£1560.24		
Interest as of 5/93	<u>£ 4.77</u>	Balance in hand	<u>£ 1188.36</u>
Total	£2188.36	Total	£2188.36

Note: We also have over £300 in credit with the GDBA from the collecting box.

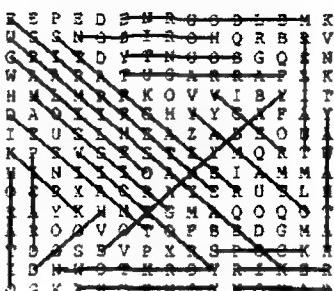
☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

Crossword answers and references

Across- 3 Fal-tor-pan (Search for Spock); 8 Free (Best of Both Worlds); 9 Andorian (Journey to Babel, Yesteryear); 10 Spiner; 13 Ruler (Return of the Archons); 15 (Where Silence Has) Lease; 16 Now (Naked Time/Naked Now); 17 Neutron; 18 Brent (Spiner); 22 Avatar (Datalore, Silicon Avatar); 23 Organian (Trouble With Tribbles); 24 Area; 25 Thelonius

Down - 1 (The) Offspring; 2 Keniclius (The Infinite Vulcan); 4 Apart (Journey to Babel, The Icarus Factor); 5 Today; 6 Rare (The Most Toys); 7 Away; 11 Gamesters (The Gamesters of Triskelion); 12 Yesterday (Tomorrow is Yesterday); 14 Ion (Court Martial); 16 Noonian (Soong; Datalore, Brothers) (Singh; Space Seed, TWOK); 19 Bantu; 20 Arch (Elementary, Dear Data); 21 Vaal (The Apple)

Word Search Solution



Classic Trek Quiz Answers

- 1) Will Decker 2) Amar 3) Maltz 4) The transporter
5) Kang 6) Claymore sword 7) D'Artagnan 8) Leonard
James Akaar 9) His ears 10) Janice Rand
11) Commander Sonak 12) By reinventing gunpowder
13) a) T'Pring b) Amok Time 14) Jose Mendez 15) The
alternative Mr Spock 16) Once, in Mirror, Mirror
17) Wesley - ie Eugene Wesley Roddenberry
18) Joachim 19) a) Khan b) During his dying moments
in STII:TWOK c) Moby Dick 20) The Tholian Web
21) Dr Janice Lester 22) "Is there something wrong
with the one I have?" 23) Sarek and Spock 24) Kirk
called the baby talk "an ancient Earth dialect" 25) The
USS Intrepid

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TWENTY FIVE YEARS OF ELECTRONICS

New Electronics - 25th Anniversary Issue - 1968-1993

Like any good science fiction, Star Trek said more about the era in which it was made than the age in which it was set. And one trend it forecast correctly back in 1968 was the significance of new technology. The programme makers went to a great deal of trouble to ensure the plausibility of the technology, in some cases basing the equipment of the 21st century on the leading edge research of the 1960s.

The fact that Star Trek was such a success (and remains so twenty five years later) was, in part, due to the way technology caught the imagination of the masses. So successful was the programme in this aspect, that it created a set of expectations that engineers have since had to live up to.

Take, for example, the millions of dollars a certain ex-Hollywood ex-president poured into the strategic defence initiative. This largely political act seemed geared mostly towards producing something like the starship Enterprise's phasers. Great strides have been made in developing a laser with sufficient power to destroy yet light weight enough for spaceships, but SDI left many scientists feeling that the Star Trek timescale was more realistic than Reagan's.

The particle matter transporter is similarly a long way off, as is eight times light speed propulsion. Interestingly, however, many of the Enterprise's electronic systems were possible years ago, some already look archaic.

One of the first systems to reach obsolescence was the medical bay's beds. This, if you remember has a series of displays on the headboard showing the patient's condition (and no blankets). After the first programme on which these appeared, a large US medical equipment manufacturer made an irate telephone call accusing the Trekkies of industrial espionage because they had exactly such a system in early prototype stage.

Since 1968, there have been many advances in medical electronics, one of the most significant surely being the body scanner (originally developed in the UK) which uses magnetic resonance to allow doctors to see cross sections of the body. This has proved invaluable in the early diagnosis of cancer for instance.

The instant cure which Star Trek's Dr. McCoy was able to accomplish using a salt cellar (sorry - an anabolic protoplasmer) may

still seem futuristic but this is the way that medicine is heading. Keyhole surgery using miniature instruments relies on fibre optics to see deep within the body through a tiny hole. Noninvasive techniques which rely on high technology cause less discomfort to the patient and are likely to become prevalent in the next few years.

Pointy ears have not become widespread in the last twenty five years. However, Mr. Spock's computer system is already less than state of the art. The tricorder which he habitually took to planets' surfaces, for example, is archaic compared to today's palm top computers. The styling also leaves something to be desired.

The main ship's computer used speech to communicate with its masters and was instrumental in setting the agenda for the man/machine interface of real systems. Speech synthesis was cracked more than a decade ago in the form of Texas Instrument's Speak and Spell machine. These days, speech synthesis is available in a single chip, at costs low enough to put into greeting cards. Although, synthesisers persist in speaking in American accents.

Voice recognition is some way behind, although the present generation of systems based on neural nets is achieving impressive results. A system developed by Lernout & Hauspie allows up to forty words to be recognised from within a continuous speech pattern.

The communications system aboard the Enterprise has also been matched in many respects, although we have yet to master message transmission at faster than the speed of light. The similarity between Star Trek's communicator and the current generation of mobile phones is striking. The universal translator is not so pie-in-the-sky either. Translator computers are common in consumer catalogues, an extension of the neural network techniques used in speech recognition should integrate translators into communication devices. The Lernout and Hauspie system mentioned above can recognise speech in nine languages already.

The large screen at the front of the bridge was the centre for much of the action in Star Trek. Face offs with Klingon war lords made Captain Kirk into a superhero. In the real world, videophones have recently become commercially available so that we can all talk face to face. Display technology has also achieved large screens although the television on which we watched Star Trek in 1968 has advanced hardly at all, (nicam stereo and teletext notwithstanding) thanks to phlegmatic standardisation. Holographic, three dimensional displays were not used in the programme whereas they are beginning to be used for computer arcade games - in that respect we are ahead of the programme makers.

Of course, building a spaceship which will carry 400 people around the universe at eight times the speed of light leaves today's engineers with a range of challenges. The contrast between mechanical and electronic parts of the Enterprise throws the advances of the last twenty years into sharp relief.

Electronics engineers have taken the dreams which Star Trek producers gave them and turned them into reality in a few short years.

As to the future?

Well, Star Trek goes into its next generation giving us a glimpse even further into the future. It will be interesting to see if reality can keep pace so well with science fiction in the next twenty five years.

Live Long & Prosper



STAR TREK AND THE INFLUENCE ON MY LIFE

by Tracey Saunders

I can remember back in the 60s, when I was about 9 or 10, I first heard of a thing called The Cold War. I had never encountered a sense of fear in my young life. I could imagine being attacked by a horde of nuclear bombs and the Russians taking over. I can also recall being afraid of being captured by the KGB!

I think I must have been about 10 when I first heard of Star Trek. There was this frightened little girl, and this man by the name of Gene Roddenberry introduced this programme where there was an American, a Scotsman, a Japanese, an African woman... What startled me more than anything was the fact that there was a RUSSIAN!! To say that knocked me for six was an understatement! There was this frightened little girl watching a programme where there was a representative of each of the Super Powers. There was another character in the series, which of course was Mr Spock. I was always afraid of Mr Spock when I first began to watch Star Trek. I suppose it was the fact that he was an alien and to a young child this was a little bit frightening. I know that may sound strange to some of the younger fans, but they must remember I am 30+ now. So I am talking about over 20 years ago.

I began to be a great fan of Star Trek. I wondered, Are there any clubs I can join? Or is there anyone else out there who is a great fan of Star Trek and the philosophy it was portraying?

It wasn't until 1979, when the first movie came out, that I heard of a society called the Star Trek Welcommittee. I got in touch with them and they sent me the addresses of a couple of clubs. I joined them; but after about 6 years I became redundant and I couldn't afford to keep up the payments. Well, as you can see, I have rejoined some clubs!

In the 80s I finally realised why I was always afraid of Mr Spock. What I realised

was that Spock was looking at the Human race from an outside view. He saw us as an alien might see us if they do visit us (maybe that is why they haven't been in touch!).

Spock, to my idea, has shown us our illogical side. Some fans may have the same opinions as I; I have always thought that Vulcan has had the same evolutionary patterns in that they're 'humanoid' beings like ourselves. I have always had the impression that Vulcan was a hostile planet and the inhabitants were on the verge of destroying themselves. So I think that is one of the philosophical ideas of Gene's, to show us that if the Vulcans can manage to live in peace then of course this planet can do the same.

Gene clearly showed us that peace was possible because of the fact that Chekov was there. There was also the fact of racism. I was so delighted to see a coloured WOMAN in the series. If it had been a white woman I don't think that it would have had the same effect. Gene was saying that it can be so IF WE REALLY WANT IT TO BE SO.

As we have recently seen Gene's dream can come true if we want it to. As everyone knows the cold war has finished, the communists have diminished to give way to freedom. Obviously it isn't going to happen overnight. We have got to be patient, and be patient with each other. At least Gene has pointed the way for us and hopefully it will end up to be a reality. In my deepest of hearts I believe this to be so. I know it won't be in my lifetime, but at least if I do return again I shall embark on a better existence.

So, as the younger fans will have noticed, it isn't the special effects that is important, it is the philosophy of Star Trek that is the point. As we have seen from the many encounters between Spock and McCoy, friendship is the most precious gift that we have been given - as Kirk knows as he grins in the background.

All that is left to say now is: Thank you, Gene Roddenberry, for giving us hope; and giving me all the friends I have made over the years.

Live long
and prosper, to all
of Star Trek fans
everywhere.



ON PRODUCING A ZINE

by Sheila Clark

Once upon a time, twenty years ago, the professional Trek novel was unheard-of. (Indeed, 'the book of the film' - any film - was virtually unheard-of.) There were no video tapes; no video machines. What Trek fiction existed was Blish's script adaptations and Spock Must Die. To satisfy fan hunger for 'more Trek', we wrote our own stories; these were published in fanzines. At one time there were a lot of zine publishers; today there are fewer. ScoTpss and IDIC are probably the most prolific Trekzine publishers nowadays, certainly in Britain.

When a story is submitted, we read it and then one of three things can happen; a straight acceptance (yippee!); a request for some redevelopment or additional development (with a few ideas as to how this could be done); or (rarely) a rejection, usually on grounds of theme. Reworked submissions, whether or not they have used our suggestions, are usually accepted.

If the story can then be sent to us already on disc, great. If it isn't, it goes for typing, either by one of our typists or by Valerie or Sheila. A copy on disc is converted to our system by Janet, and it then goes to Valerie or Sheila for editing. This is mostly cosmetic - grammar, punctuation, spelling, the deletion of redundant adjectives (Spock, for example, is unlikely to look at Kirk and think of 'rippling muscles' or 'handsome, manly body' even although the writer does), altering of a word that has been used too often in one paragraph or rearranging the word order slightly to make it read more naturally (the meaning of a sentence can be drastically altered by the placing or misplacing of one word) - or with an eye to terminology - Klingons use disruptors, not phasers, for example. It then goes back to Janet who puts it into our layout and prints

out a proofreading copy, which goes to both Valerie and Sheila. They both proofread it - occasionally a little final editing is done at this stage. The proofreading copies then remain with Valerie (Classic Trek) or Sheila (TNG). Once they have a selection of proofed stories, they compile a zine.

Once a zine is compiled the proofed stories are sent back to Janet and she corrects the files, compiles the zine on the computer and prints the masters. These are then sent back to Sheila to go in for printing. There are times we think we keep the post office going.

We try to use stories, as far as possible, approximately in order of receipt, but which zine a story goes into will often depend on how the page count works out - for example, if we have three stories all at 40 pages long, we can include two of them in one issue but the third will have to wait until the next issue, as will anything else in excess of 20 pages, because we stick with the 100-page average length for reasons of cost. If we include a 12-page story, we're left with 6 - 8 pages to fill, and another 12-page story will be too long. It can be quite difficult juggling which stories go together to make up one zine, because we're also trying to give a variety of themes/main characters as well as a variety of length, without holding any story for an impossibly long time. However, if we have half a dozen stories from one writer, the order in which those stories are used could be anything, up to the first one accepted being used last.

Poetry is slotted in wherever there is space for it. We tend to have only three or four people who send in poetry, so the order in which it is used doesn't much matter. We could, however, do with more poems of 6 - 15 lines.

We don't get much art. Ink line without too much shading is the best; it reproduces clearly with no little loss of detail. Pencil and delicate shading lose a great deal of detail; we use a small printer of the kind who doesn't have the space for more than a couple of basic printing machines and one to prepare the plates (his entire shop would just about fit into Sheila's living room). We use art mostly for covers and one inside picture, though occasionally we get pictures done for a specific story or that will fit one particular story.

Writers and artists get a contributor's copy of the zine their work appears in.

We can't afford to put out too many zines at one time. We've stopped even trying to tell a writer ahead of time when her story will be used, but a year to eighteen months from acceptance is about par for the course. We realise each writer is anxious to see her

story in print, but so are a couple of dozen others! (We understand that professional publishers can take even longer.) Each zine has to finance the next.

The print run is low, so the zines are correspondingly dear, and dearer than we like. There are a lot of hidden costs - things like paper to print the proof copies, printer ink, postage sending things to each other - unavoidable when each of us lives over 100 miles from the other two. Pricing also has to allow for replacing copies lost in transit, contributors' copies and the copies that go to the British Library. The BL has the right to ask for up to 6 copies of any work to be supplied to them at the publisher's expense, and sometimes do, although 5 is more usual.

Not as many people are reading zines today as used to, which is a pity; regular zine readers maintain that fan-written stories are often better than the professional novels.



TV TIMES II

Additional Reporting by NJB

Spock was puzzled by McCoy's illogical reaction to his list of twentieth century television programme titles, namely laughter, and decided that further investigation was required. Accordingly he took a further sample and informed his medical colleague that he had now observed another alarming programme entitled Arduous Astral Journey: Area of Great Profundity Labelled in the Numbering System of Ancient Rome and the following selection of merely bemusing programmes.

- 1) Personages Inhabiting Adjacent Domiciles.
- 2) The Primary Political and Economic Metropolis of the Nation State Known as Great Britain is in a State of Conflagration.
- 3) Anonymous Medical Practitioner.
- 4) Persons with a Psychological or Physiological Dependence upon an Electronic Information and Entertainment
- Medium.
- 5) Please Advise Me as I am Uncertain as to Whether I Have Novel Information to be Imparted to You.
- 6) You are Advised to Proceed by the Route Situated at the Greater Altitude.
- 7) Oil-yielding Herbaceous Plant Thoroughfare.
- 8) Final Supply of Fermented Grape Juice Produced During the Warmest Season of a Terran Year.
- 9) Avian Creatures Emitting a Sound Characteristic of Electrical Storms.
- 10) Person of Restricted Growth Possessing the Property of Reflection at the Least Refracted End of the Spectrum of Visible Light as Perceived by Homo Sapiens.

Answers - page 83

TO BUY OR NOT TO BUY

by Marysia Kolodziej

For all of you out there who want to have a go at reading professional novels but don't know where to start, here is something to give you a rough idea of what to look for.

Good reads (* = buy or die unfulfilled)

Original

The Romulan Way by Duane & Morwood. A new character story. Serious.

*How Much for Just the Planet? by John Ford. Kirk V Kaden. Hilarious to the end.

Bloodthirst by J M Dillard. A murderer is loose. Good characterisation.

The IDIC Epidemic by Jean Lorrah. A plague threatens interspecies harmony.

Yesterday's Son & Time for Yesterday by A C Crispin. The story of Zarabeth & Spock's son.

*The Final Reflection by John Ford. A new character story. Early Starfleet history with the Klingons.

The 3-Minute Universe by Barbara Paul. Interesting new aliens. Funny in places.

Memory Prime by G & J Reeves-Stevens. Connected to The Lights of Zetar.

The Wounded Sky by Diane Duane. Stunning science fiction.

Vulcan's Glory by D C Fontana. A Spock story. Set on Pike's Enterprise.

My Enemy, My Ally by Diane Duane. The Romulans join with Kirk to fight the Romulans.

*Ishmael by Barbara Hambly. A Spock story in Earth's past.

*Dreadnaught & Battlestations by Diane Carey. New young heroes, funny and exciting.

*The Kobayashi Maru by Julia Ecklar. What did Kirk, Chekov, Sulu & Scotty do?

The Pandora Principle by Carolyn Clowes. A Spock and Saavik story. Where did Saavik come from?

The Prometheus Design by Marshak & Culbreath. Complex and intellectual.

Doctor's Orders by Diane Duane. A McCoy story. Interesting aliens in a first contact story.

*Killing Time by Della van Hise. History is changed and the Universe is falling apart.

*Home is the Hunter by Dana Kramer-Rells. Sulu, Scotty & Chekov are banished to the past.

Mindshadow by J M Dillard. Spock in a coma. Bones has his eye on a new doctor.

Triangle by Marshak & Culbreath. Complex. Kirk & Spock are in love with the same woman.

*Strangers from the Sky by Margaret Bonnanno. First contact with the Vulcans.

Final Frontier by Diane Carey. Kirk's father goes adventuring.

Uhura's Song by Janet Kagan. Discover the secrets of a new race to save a planet.

Dwellers in the Crucible by Margaret Bonnanno. A new character story. Enthralling.

*Pawns and Symbols by Majliss Larson. A new character story. The return of Kang and Mara.

The Lost Years by J M Dillard. A mainly McCoy story. An ancient Vulcan comes back from death.

TNG

Ghost Ship by Diane Carey. A Troi story.

Masks by John Vornholt. An intriguing new society.

A Rock and a Hard Place by Peter David. A Riker story.

Boogeymen by Mel Gilden. Wesley comes face to face with his nightmares.

Q in Law by Peter David. Q seduces Mrs Troi and tries to destroy a marriage.

Metamorphosis by Jean Lorrah. Data becomes human.

Imbalance by V E Mitchell. An insect race goes insane.

War Drums by John Vornholt. A Worf story with Ensign Ro.

Nightshade by Laurell K Hamilton.

Writers to look out for.

Margaret Wander Bonnanno (3 books)

Diane Carey (5 books)

A C Crispin (3 books)

Peter David (8 books)

J M Dillard (5 books)

Diane Duane (4 books)

John Ford (2 books)
 Jean Lorrah (4 books)
 Marshak & Culbreath (6 books)

Books to avoid

The Entropy Effect by Vonda McIntyre
 The Covenant of the Crown by Howard Weinstein
 The Abode of Life by Lee Corey
 The Trellisane Confrontation by ?
 Mutiny on the Enterprise by Robert Vardeman
 Renegade by Gene deWeese
 Legacy by Michael Jon Friedman
 Shadow Lord by Lawrence Yep
 Unification by Jeri Taylor
 Power Hungry by Howard Weinstein
 Gulliver's Fugitives by Keith Sharee
 Doomsday World by Carter/David/Friedman/Greenberger
 Contamination by John Vornholt
 Grounded by David Bischoff

For some reason, on average original Trek novels tend to be better than TNG novels, perhaps because the writers of the original novels had a while to think about the books between the series' ending and the books being published.

Enjoy your reading!



REVIEWS - BOOKS/VIDEOS ETC.



HERE THERE BE DRAGONS by John Peel
 TNG28 Pocket Books \$5.50 (£4.70)
 reviewed by Sheila Clark

When Picard learns that there is a planet with a small Human population hidden in the middle of a huge stellar cloud - a planet with an indigenous species of 'dragon' that is being illegally hunted by a group of trophy hunters who prey on endangered species - he decides that he must interfere.

The Human population is formed of the descendants of 13th century Germans who were taken there by the Preservers at

My First is in Planet and also in Stars
 My 2nd is in Earth and also in Mars
 My 3rd is in Hail but never in Call
 My 4th is in Cabin but never in Hall
 My 5th is in Beam but never in Light
 My 6th is in Plummer and always in Flight
 My 7th by now you may already have
 guessed
 I am soft and furry and loved the best.

Answer on page 86



TV Times II - Answers

1) Neighbours; 2) London's Burning; 3 Dr Who; 4) Telly Addicts; 5) Have I Got News for You?; 6) Take the High Road. (One for the Scots there...); 7) Sesame Street; 8) Last of the Summer Wine; 9) Thunderbirds. (Yes I know that's a bit of a dodgy one...); 10) Red Dwarf.

the time of the Black Death. They have stagnated - their fear of the man-eating 'dragons' has led them to remain firmly in their walled villages (though presumably they must do some farming).

Picard, Data, Ro and a security guard beam down but are quickly captured. Riker and Troi, as a follow-up away team, also run into problems. And Geordi, left in command of the Enterprise, finds the ship under attack from weapons of an advanced technology...

I don't think there is any way this book could be called science fiction; most of it is

more of an adventure set in mediaeval times. The bits involving the holodeck - especially Worf's Arthurian adventure - seemed unnecessary. But I thoroughly enjoyed the book despite that. I loved Ro's reaction to being sold to the local Duke as a pleasure slave (the Duke didn't!) and there are some other nice light moments as well.

My one minor quibble is the way the crew always manage to find someone among the locals to help them or work with them, but I suppose that's inevitable. Certainly it isn't anything more than a quibble, and despite it I'd give this one 9 out of 10.

DARK MIRROR by Diane Duane TNG hardback Simon & Schuster £9.99
reviewed by Sheila Clark

In the CT episode Mirror, Mirror, the Enterprise crew discovered the existence of a parallel universe where, instead of a Federation, there was a brutal Empire. Now scientists in the Mirror universe have discovered how to break through the barrier into 'our' universe, with a view to conquering it.

The Enterprise 1701-D is pulled through into the Mirror universe - the plan, to replace 'our' personnel with their Mirror counterparts. Picard, Troi and Geordi beam over to the Mirror Enterprise to try to defeat this plan.

It took me a while to get into the story, but once into it I quite enjoyed it, while not thinking it one of Ms Duane's best stories. There were, I felt, a number of little problems that were skimmed over - not necessarily ignored, but certainly brushed aside to some degree - for example, I had some problems with the Mirror Troi (their security chief) still being called 'Counselor' when from the way she regularly and without leave invaded people's minds, it was clear that her role was certainly not that of Counselor.

I also had some problems with the sheer brutality of the Mirror universe in this book. Certainly, Ms Duane did explain why the Mirror Spock was unable to effect any changes, but in the 80 or so years since then,

the level of brutality seemed to have increased quite dramatically. I would have also thought that - since even in Kirk's day there were revolts against the Empire's authority - such revolts would have become more common, and made it harder for the Empire to expand with the speed at which it did, even in a society where the military budget took priority over everything (except possibly the Emperor's comfort?).

Everything does hang together, however, to provide a professionally-crafted story, though I don't think I would give it more than 7 out of 10.

STAR TREK MEMORIES by William Shatner Harper Collins 1993 £8.99
Reviewed by Edward Woo.

One of the most eagerly anticipated books about Trek to be published. It took me only 3 days to read - and even priced realistically!

The book is informative and recounts other Trek cast members' points of view over an incident or story. Having read many other books about ST's background and history, I had heard a good many of Bill's stories. Others included extra details which I enjoyed, but it was not as good as I hoped. Nothing was really mentioned about the subsequent 6 movies.

The snippets of information that are entertaining include Bill's genuine terror of George Takei's swordplay in The Naked Time (with an excellent photo of George brandishing a sword). How NBC/Desilu were really mean with money even in the first season, which nearly cost the complete effects shots and opticals of the Enterprise. The man in charge was a money-saver!

There was Bill and Leonard's bicycle problem, and how Leonard would cycle to lunch - before Bill interfered!

The hectic schedule of the ST seasons, leading to the ill health of Gene R, Gene C, and Bob J. Some 'days' Gene would rewrite all night for a morning shot.

The excellent family atmosphere that was created as they knew they were ahead of their time for such a TV series.

There were tributes to Gene Coon and how Fred Freiberger was not wholly to blame for the 3rd season's failure; generally it was NBC and their whole attitude to Trek, from the pilot onwards.

In the final chapter, Bill hopes James D will give him a call to iron out their ill-feelings to each other, as he had heard it from Nichelle, Walter and, to a lesser extent, George.

To most (if not all) ST fans, this is a must read, just to hear Bill's comments. Pity that 3 of the photos used were reversed. I don't think anything said was damaging, but just a point of view.

Any thoughts, anybody?

THE NITPICKER'S GUIDE FOR NEXT GENERATION TREKKERS by Phil Farrand
Titan £7.99 Reviewed by Sheila Clark

This book is a fairly thorough examination of the first 6 seasons of TNG. It gives a short resume of each episode, then examines each for mistakes in plot detail, continuity (this includes continuity with other episodes), equipment oddities, reuse of shots (and stock shots) and any other question that might occur to someone watching any given episode. It also includes some of what the writer considers were 'great lines', and some trivia questions about the episodes.

This book is the result of some fairly concentrated watching, including, here and there, some frame by frame study of specific scenes. Some of the points are definitely nitpicking, but others are quite major, especially in the realms of episode to episode continuity. It certainly makes nonsense of the oft-quoted Paramount comment, "The audience will never notice..." (We know that the audience notices - dare we hope that the appearance in print of such a concentrated collection of plot holes, mistakes and inconsistencies will finally make Paramount

realise it too?)

It's not really a book to sit down and read - it's more a book to refer to if there's something you notice and think - "Wait a minute - didn't it say in X that..." - or, if you choose to read it, it's one to pick up and lay down over several days, rather than try to get through it at a sitting. Indeed, with 922 closely-printed pages of reduced print information, it's impossible to read at a sitting!

It's the sort of book in which we might expect to find a fair number of illustrations, but there are none, possibly for copyright reasons; but in all honesty, the inclusion of illustrations would make an already fat book obese. At £7.99 it's definitely value for money.

The writer does not claim that he has found everything that a dedicated nitpicker might spot, and invites his readers to send in any additional ones they might find. Thinking over some of the points that IDIC members have mentioned over the years, I think that we could give him quite a few!

TREK The Behind-the-scenes Story of The Next Generation James van Hise Pioneer Books 1992, £9.95 Available at Future Shock. Reviewed by Edward Woo

This is another large format book by this author. It contains 8 sections, of which some are big while others are half a dozen pages long. Section 1 contains a behind-the-scenes look at TNG seasons 1 - 5. This is a very enlightening chapter which includes the multiple shuffling of writers in season 1, whereas in later years seasoned writers were able to improve the quality of the story lines through continuity of the staff.

Another bit of the book deals with the question of the prime directive. It considers it as either a good rule or just an excuse for Starfleet not to get involved.

Data is considered in later pages - whether he obeys the 3 laws of robotics and whether he can develop Human emotions. To this end a question is asked - did he pull

the trigger in the episode The Most Toys? Was Data's decision based upon Human emotion or a logical train of thought? (We all know he pulled it all right.)

Sections about Picard and Guinan didn't really interest me, nor were the compilation of Klingon and Borg episodes - just run-of-the-mill storylines, nothing special. The last section dealt with the rumour of DS9.

The penultimate section contained the storylines of episodes that were never filmed but were of note. There were some excellent stories that would have made TNG stand out, whereas others were bad or were too similar to Classic Trek. Some familiar titles included The Bonding, Immunity Syndrome and The Legacy. One story called Blood and Fire tackled the gay issue - it was excellent. Even though those scripts never made it to the screen some of the ideas were incorporated into other scripts.

On the whole, not a brilliant book, but not bad either. I'm getting used to this author's work now.

TNG Tricorder, Playmates, £14.99

Forbidden Planet. Edinburgh (031) 225-8613

Reviewed by Stephen Daniels.

At last it is here! Since June 1993 I have been hearing 'We're expecting them in in a couple of weeks sir...' but on December 8th within two hours of their arrival I had one in my clutches! When I took it out of the box I was happy to see they had got the size of it roughly right (though not to the specs in the TNG Technical Manual) and it does look quite smart. Sadly the first of a few disappointments was the fact that it had no lights on the front of it; I don't mean inside it but the bit the operator points at the object he wished to scan. There is some plastic moulded to the shape of the lights, but that alone isn't very impressive. The next thing is that in order to activate it, i.e. light up the display screen and allow for the sounds to be activated, you must move a switch on the front - it will not just come on when you open it up like on the TV. This I couldn't stand for, so having some interest in

electronics I got hold of two small magnets and a magnet operated switch (from an electric toothbrush!), opened the Tricorder up, took my soldering iron to it and MANY hours later it came on when I flipped open the front, just like it should. There are three 'authentic' sounds included: a sequence of six beeps that you must synchronise your fingers with to make it look as if you are making them; another sequence of six beeps but at a different pitch; and (the best of them all) a very realistic 'warbling' sound that the device makes when scanning. Each of these sounds only lasts a few seconds and when the battery gets low can sound pretty weird. The light behind the display screen gobbles up the energy from the battery as it uses a conventional torch bulb, so in the battery compartment there is a switch which can turn off just the screen and leave the sounds on. Now for the flashing lights when you open it up; on the TV there are 13 of them (I think) - on this thing there are 4, and even that's not strictly true - the 4 are all lit by the one LED so they all come on at the same time, not one after the other like they should do. Finally there is a rather large belt clip on the back of it so it doesn't sit properly on a flat surface, but this can be removed if you carefully open the Tricorder by undoing the 4 screws on the back, then unscrewing the belt clip from the inside. This review sounds a little critical because I think Playmates could have made the adjustments I made at little extra cost, plus a few more. All said it is good fun and I'm glad I bought it. Marks out of ten - 7.



Answer to Riddle - Tribble



ZINE REVIEWS

ENTERPRISE LOG ENTRIES 90

Reviewed by Karen Sparks

Tense, nervous headache? Feeling depressed or irritable?

ScoTpress brings you an instant cure! Send off an urgent order for this zine, tear it open on arrival and turn to page 76. There you will find a poem which, in its 5 pages, details the entire exploits of NCC1701 and what the other starship crews thought about it all. ("They needn't feel dejected at the honours Kirk collected, or the fact his crew solved problems so much faster...") It is very cleverly written, rhyming and scanning cheerfully throughout. Whoever you are, Mrs Pippin, thank you - you certainly improved my day!

There are 5 other poems, and over half the zine is taken up with "Maximum Prejudice" by Maggy. This story is about a newly assigned crewman who hates Vulcans and is out to make trouble for Spock. Spock tries to deal alone with the series of attacks on his property and work. Lies and slander spreading amongst some crewmembers undermine his authority. He is further stressed by reports of violent storms causing



severe loss of life on his home planet, and fears his mother is dead. Spock is drawn here very well as a dignified, skilled professional who is isolated by prejudice and misunderstanding. McCoy is dealt with rather less sympathetically. There is much interesting and original detail in this story, which comes to a dramatic and unexpected end.

The other story I particularly like is "Memories" by Sandy Catchick, a regular and favourite contributor to ScoTpress. Sitting with an injured Spock, McCoy is reminded of a similar incident much earlier in their relationship when he took the Vulcan at face value and didn't know him well enough to identify the signs of pain and stress which nearly killed him. This is a lovely story, illustrating the complex McCoy/Spock relationship almost exactly the way I see it.

This was one of the first publications in A5 format but there are still 100 pages. Personally I had no trouble with the smaller print, and the illos don't seem to have lost any impact. I think I actually prefer this size as not only being cheaper, but much easier to store.



NEW ZINES

ScoTpress

MAKE IT SO 19 - Wes comes back on board... with a problem. Has he gone insane?; an urgent medical mission goes wrong... and Data has to choose between duty and friendship; an Away Team discovers puzzles on a planet; Carmin Reo failed at the Academy, and now she has crashed her civilian ship. Incompetence... or something else? Could Data clear her name?; Data has attacked Crusher, but insists the

attacker was Lore - who was last seen being beamed into space and must have been destroyed... A5 size, £2.50. Due February. See zine ads for ordering info.

MAKE IT SO 20 - Captain Lerette has come forward in time 85 years - and insists on trying to return 'home' despite the arguments of the Enterprise crew; is it stronger to accept a challenge... or refuse it?; a Health Inspection turns up an irregularity in Data's quarters... (A/U story); a distress call is

cancelled - but things on Veltae II are far from all right... A5 size, £2.50. Due February. See zine ads for ordering info.



You can send your Zine Ads to either Janet or Sheila. While we will try and print them in full we reserve the right to edit for length if necessary. We will print these ads in two consecutive newsletters only unless we receive an update.

IDIC/ScoTpress

IDIC LOG 15 - The Daystrom labs appear to be haunted; Chekov begins to behave out of character; and others U.K. £4.00

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@MAKE IT SO 20 - A5 format. A collection of TNG stories by various writers. Due February. UK £2.50. Price includes P&P.

@MAKE IT SO 19 - A5 format. A collection of TNG stories by various writers. Due February. UK £2.50. Price includes P&P.

MAKE IT SO 15, 16, (THE DISTAFF SIDE novel) 17, 18 - A5 format. U.K. £2.50 each

Other issues of E-Log Entries, IDIC Log and Make It So available, also a number of novels. SAE for full list.

Order from Sheila Clark, 6 Craigmill Cottages, Strathmartine, by Dundee DD3 0PH. Please make cheques/POs payable to Scotpress. Visa/Access/Mastercard accepted. Foreign prices: Europe, add 50p per zine for A5 titles, £1 per zine for the others; Australia/Japan write to Sheila for prices, enclosing an SAE + IRC. We have authorised

Bill Hupe to reprint and sell IDIC & Scotpress zines in America, Canada and APO/FPO outside Britain; send to him for prices, enclosing a SAE.

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ATTUCLAC by David Gomm - Why have ships - Federation, Klingon and Romulan - been disappearing in one area? U.K. £2.50

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SPINNER OF NIGHTMARES by Pam Baddeley - Who are the hostile aliens on Sigma Orionsis IV? U.K. £2.50

STAR TREK CREDITS - the complete credit listing from the series, compiled by Janet Quarton. A very useful reference manual. U.K. £1.50

Send submissions of TNG material to Sheila Clark, (address above) and Classic Trek material to Valerie Piacentini, 20 Ardrossan Rd, Saltcoats, Ayrshire, Scotland.

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Sheila Clark also has a full list of Trek titles available - SAE and 50p in stamps for a copy.

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ALNITAH - Free copies available, while stocks last. Several times winner of "best British fanzine" award in the '70s. ALNITAH

is available for postage only (Joyce needs the cupboard space!) three 1st class stamps plus an address label. Fiction zine. Original series. From: Joyce Cluett, "Antilath", 40 Lordsfield Gardens, Overton, Basingstoke, Hants RG25 3EW.

FREE BEDSIDE GROPE - "GROPE" was a very well known British adult zine of the 70's. "BEDSIDE GROPE" available for postage & packing only (75p in UK stamps plus an address label). Also available- DEEP GROPE (£1.50), THE GRAVESIDE GROPE (£2.00), GROPE FLASHBACK (£1.50). After ten years out of active fandom I need to clear my cupboards of this compromising material. Age 16+ only From: Ann Looker, 12 Russell St., Swansea SA1 4HR.

Gloria Fry

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ZINES by Kay Stagg

Genzines - Kirk/Spock orientated hurt/comfort. Please make cheques or postal orders payable to Kay Stagg and send orders to 33 Barrack Road, Guildford, Surrey GU2 6RU. Postage and packing included in the price (second class). Please ask for price if ordering from Europe ... include an I.R.C.
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Rosetta Productions (formerly Empathy Press)

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VILLAGE PRESS

IN THE WILDERNESS 3 - Marriage, media mayhem, infidelity, and the perils of pursuing a wet Vulcan pack the pages of ITW 3, the new all story zine. 130 pp of stories by Eva Stuart, Kate Daniels, Jane Carnall and Atropos and introducing Patricia Roe. Price UK £7.00; Europe £9.00; USA \$23.00; Canada £10.00; Australia £10.50 (inc p&p airmail).

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IN THE WILDERNESS 4 (Due Feb '94) - I need one medium length story - or more if I'm greedy and go into reduced print. Village Press has just taken delivery of a real

computer with laser print so that ITW4 should look good. It will be a glamour issue with artwork from Caren Parnes and others. Stories are by a mix of old and new writers. I'm always interested in seeing stories and never, ever unkind!

All prices air. All cheques accepted. PLEASE MAKE PAYABLE TO ROSEMARY WILD (new bank regs). All zines contain the K/S premise. Age statement please and from new readers a note that you understand the premise. Mrs. Rosemary Wild, 'Cwm Croeser', Stuckton, Fordingbridge, Hants.

THE SMALL PRINTERS

Sadly, because of rising costs, we have had to stop production of most of our zines. The exception is NO ALTERNATIVE by Glen David, a Star Trek - Blake's Seven crossover story, still available from L. R. Muir, 1 Moor Park Avenue, Leeds LS6 4BT, £4.75 inc p&p in UK. Please make cheques payable to L.R. Muir. However, several of our old titles, including "The Small Print" (a Professionals genzine, 4 issues) and several reprinted Star Trek stories by Meg Wright, are now available from: At the Sign of the Dragon, 131/133 Sheen Lane, London SW14 8AE. Please send an SAE to this new address for details. Thank you for your past custom.

INFINITE FRONTIERS

INFINITE FRONTIERS is a fan publishing team devoted to releasing some of the best possible zines we can, specialising in article-based zines, not unlike club newsletters. Our first release is the unique title, THE FINAL FRONTIER, a magazine on DISK for owners of the Commodore Amiga computer!! To our knowledge, this was the world's first disk based magazine for Trek fans. Prices are: Issue 1 (2 disks) - £3, Issue 2 (3 disks) - £4, Issue 3 (4 disks) - £5 and Issue 4 (4 disks) - £5. All the above prices include P&P. Overseas orders are welcome - with no extra postage charges!! As a special offer to IDIC members, order all 4 issues for only £14.50, saving £2.50.

All orders must be in sterling and made payable to: Simon Plumbe, 14 Rousdon Grove, Great Barr, Birmingham, B43 5HN, England. Please mention IDIC when replying.

FARPOINT PRESS

Due to high cost of producing the zines and lack of support from local group, I have decided to cease publication of the line. To those who have brought Encounters and Encounters The Next Generation, thank you.

Zines now available from Pat Mitchell:

NEW - 'A Touch of Tish' (K/S) An anthology of new and reprinted short stories, all by Tish. UK price £9

GEMINI - THE FLAME AND THE FIRE (K/S), the K/S sequel to Brother's Keeper. UK Price £6.00

Orders for the above must include an age statement and a statement to say you understand and accept the K/S premise.

Also still available: BROTHER'S KEEPER (genzine) a hurt/comfort story featuring Kirk and Spock. UK price £4.50. MOMENTS IN TIME (adult) Short stories featuring the TNG crew. UK price £5.50. Age statement required.

All prices include P&P. Foreign enquiries please send IRC for price. Flyers available for all the zines (send SAE). USA readers note the zines are all available from Bill Hupe. Cheques payable to Pat Mitchell, orders to 38 Ashbourne Grove, Halifax, West Yorkshire, HX1 4JU, England.

Deep Space Nine - we are now seeking contributions for our new DS9 fiction zine "SPACED OUT". Artwork and fiction welcome. Publication for UFP '94.

Zines available now: Robin of Sherwood, War of the Worlds, Tomorrow People - SASE for prices and details. Also coming soon: The Agony Column #1 - multi-media h/c fiction. Contact Helen Leithhead, Shatterzine, 191 Hillcrest Drive, Southdown, Bath BA2 1HF.

H Gibson

We're looking for Trek writers to contribute to a new Classic/NG zine. No K/S and a definite slant toward "minor" Classic characters. Any NG stories welcome. If you've any work to show us please submit stories, poems and artwork to H Gibson, 23 Blairatholl Avenue, Glasgow G11 7QJ.

The Nannyste Press

MAB by Debbie Lee. A face from Ensign Ro's past poses a threat to Counselor Troi's

future. Riker and Crusher have their suspicions, but no proof! Will Ro Laren say something before it's too late? And why does Captain Picard seem so reluctant to interfere? 130 reduced print pages, A5 format. Available mid October 1993. UK price £4.75 incl. p&p. Please ask for the price before ordering from abroad. All cheques, etc. in sterling only. Please make cheques and POs payable to D. Willcox, 17 Cameron Lodge, Stanley Road, Hounslow, Middx. TW3 1YX.

Sue Embury

ALEXANDER - A time travel story in which Kirk and Spock find themselves trapped in Ancient Babylon the last months of Alexander the Great's reign. UK price £4.00 including p&p.

Coming shortly:- **OFF THE BEATEN TREK**
A Collection of short stories by Sue Embury and Joan Cullen, ranging from Classic Trek tales to something completely different. SAE for details. Sue Embury, Lower Bailea, Tregare, Monmouth, Gwent NP5 4JL

DUET

For Attention of all former contributors to the zines Duet 1-20, plus all the 'one-offs' published by Doreen DaBinette. We, Eileen Mitchell and Carole Weatherill, wish to reprint the Duet series in its entirety. If you contributed as a writer, poet or artist but do not wish for your work to be included please let us know as soon as possible. However, we hope you are agreeable to our efforts and thank you for your assistance. Please contact Carole Weatherill, 8 St Margaret's Grove, E. Twickenham, Middx TW1 1JG or Eileen Mitchell, 25 Winchester Road, E Twickenham, Middx TW1 1EL.

HULL STARFLEET

STAR TREK QUIZ BOOK Quizzes and puzzles. £3.00 inc. postage. Nina Lynch, 54, Claremont Ave., Hull, North Humberside, HU6 7LZ

KAG

THE BEST OF KAG... SO FAR. Available now. All the victories of the Klingon Assault Group - Europe documented in one monumental volume; plus costume building, language lessons, a short story, cartoons, scrapbook, and much, much more (last few

copies) £3.50 (£3.00 to members) plus 50p P & P. Cheques/POs to KAG-UK. KAG Europe, PO Box 1015, Newmilns, Ayrshire, Scotland KA16 9JW.

SPACE-TIME CONTINUUM, a bi-monthly Visual Media newsletter edited by Bjo Trimble. It is full of news and well worth having. Subscription Rates for 6 issues: USA \$8 Bulk mail, \$10 First Class, Canada \$12.5 Air Printed Matter, Overseas \$18 GB/Europe Air Printed Matter, \$20 Pacific Rim Air Printed Matter. Make cheques/money orders payable to: Bjo Trimble. Bjo Trimble, P.O. Box 6858, Kingswood, TX 77325-6858 USA.

HiFi Media

M3 is an A5, 32 page fanzine produced on a Archimedes Acorn and each copy is laser printed to 600dpi. It covers all British and American television fantasy and science fiction and from issue four, radio as well, illustrating them with artwork and B&W photos. Regular columns include **MERCHANDISE** (photos and info on old and rare items), **TECH** (technical information on TV and video in English!), **OPINION** (a discussion topic in each issue) and **WAFFLE!** which is ... well read it and find out!

M3 : ISSUE FOUR - NEXT GEN'S Ensign Ro Laren comes under the spotlight, we listen to Orson Welles' radio **WAR OF THE WORLDS**, take an overview of the new **DOCTOR WHO** adventures, consider **SURVIVORS**, combine all the Gerry Anderson puppets series into one universe, and ask if organised fandom can spoil a fan's enjoyment of their favourite series. Plus **Telefantasy Reference Books**, **Non-English Language MERCHANDISE**, and **WAFFLE!**

M3 : ISSUE FIVE - We ask if **FORBIDDEN PLANET** was the basis for **STAR TREK**, if the **NEXT GENERATION** novels are worthy of the name, and listen to the second season of **HITCH HIKER'S GUIDE TO THE GALAXY**. Plus **TWIN PEAKS**, **THE MOON STALLION**, **MORK AND MINDY** and more. **ISSUES ONE to THREE** are also available. Each issue costs £1.75 including postage, cheques/POs payable to Stuart Halliday, M3(IDIC), 35 Pinewood Park, Deans, Livingston, EH54 8NN.

AIRWAVES: A multi-media fan-fiction zine, A4 size, computer printed, photocopied photo covers. 70 - 110 pages per issue. 28 issues currently available, new issues out on a quarterly basis. Also available: **THE HOODED MAN** (Robin of Sherwood - 3 issues, more planned); **KNIGHT 2000** (Knight Rider - 14 issues); **RIDER COMING IN...** (The Young Riders - 2 issues, more planned); **FLIGHT INTO SLAVERY** (B7 crossover with Battlestar Galactica); **CHILDREN OF PEACE** ('V'); . Submissions wanted for any and all publications, no limits to length but no "/" fiction please. Crossovers and/or spoofs especially welcome. Amstrad users (Locoscript 1 or 2) with PCW's 8256 or 8512 (A-drive only) (3" disc - 180k) or

PCW 9265, 9512 or PCW 10 (3.5" - 720K) can submit their work on disc to save postage. Discs will be sent back by return of post, manuscripts if requested. SAE (2 IRC's) for further details to: Miss B Gallagher, 195 Radipole Lane, Weymouth, Dorset, DT4 0TQ.

THE WIZARD'S KNOB - a non-profit-making fanzine devoted to fans of Terry Pratchett and Josh Kirby. Anyone wanting a copy should send a cheque for £2, made payable to 'The Wizard's Knob Magazine', to TWK Subscriptions, Spinneys, Post Office Road, Woodham Mortimer, Maldon, Essex CM9 6SX, or send an SAE for info to John Penney, 'The Wizard's Knob', 50 Sunnybank, Kirkham, Preston, Lancashire PR4 2JF.



CONVENTIONS/ADVERTS/CLUBS/GROUPS

Conventions

LALCON One day event 13th February, 1994, featuring TNG, Classic and DS9 in 3 video rooms. Dealers' room and quiz, with food available. All £10 entry fee to benefit Moat House Special School Children. Parking free, excellent access and facilities for disabled. No creche. Basildon is 25 mins drive from the Dartford bridge and 3 British Rail stops from Upminster tube. Send SAE to Lalcon, Moat House School, Church Road, Basildon, Essex SS14 2NQ. Dealer enquiries welcome. Wear uniform for pub collection round if you feel bold enough!

TREK/DWARF II The 2nd British Star Trek/ Red Dwarf Convention at the Holiday Inn, Leicester. 25th-27th March, 1994. Registration £35. Guests: Nana Visitor, Norman Lovett, Rob Grant, Doug Naylor, Richard Arnold and others. Please send 2 SASEs for further details to Trek/Dwarf, 47 Marsham, Orton Goldhay, Peterborough PE2 5RN

TKON 1994 - 1st - 4th April 1994 at Norfolk Gardens Hotel, Bradford City Centre. Guest -

Armin Shimerman (Quark) and John Carrigan (subject to work commitments). Registration £25; Fri/Sat or Sat/Sun £20, Sun/Mon £15; single day, Fri, Sun, Mon £10, Sat £15. Students, unemployed or OAPs (at the time of the con) deduct £5 from above rates. Children under 16 half price, children under 5 free. Room Rates: £28 twin/double PPPN, £33 single per night (please note that all single rooms have been booked at the Norfolk Gardens Hotel). Cheaper accommodation is available at Bradford University. Programme - Federation Ball, 4 Video Rooms, 2 Sales Rooms, Art Room, Medieval Adventure, Zine Library, Club Room, Quizzes, Fancy Dress Show, Drama Competition, Games, Horror Night, Japanime, Role Playing. Contact T'Kon 1994, 167 Kingshurst Rd, Northfield, Birmingham B31 2LL. Please enclose an SAE.

UFP CON '94 (The 37th British Star Trek Convention) 29th April to 2nd May 1994, Britannia International Hotel, London. Registration: £30. Under 16's half price, under 10's free. Accommodation: £27.50 per person in a twin, double or triple, £31.00 in a single. For a registration form and further details please send an SAE to Ros Liddle, 61 The Scotchhill, Coventry CV6 2EW.

UNICON II A Star Trek/Science Fiction Convention. 24th-26th June, 1994. Hilton International Hotel, Bristol. Registration: full £25, Saturday only £17.50. Reduced rates for under 14's. Room rates, £30 per person, per night. SAE for form to Unicon, 55 Kildare Road, Knowle, Bristol BS4 1PR.

CONSTITUTION II 8th-10th July, 1994. The Tollgate Motel, Watling Street, Gravesend, Kent. The Intrepid Star Trek club's second mini-convention. Videos of Star Trek in all its forms, talks, quizzes and discos. Registration: Full £15, one day £10. Hotel rates: £35 pppn in a single room; £30, pppn in twin/double rooms. SAE for further details to Tina Hewett, 115 The Brent, Dartford, Kent DA1 1YH.

CONTAGION: The Fourth Scottish Star Trek Convention. 23-25 July 1994. Hospitality Inn, Glasgow. Guests to be confirmed. Registration rates: £35. Hotel rates available on request. Send SAE to Contagion, P.O. Box 867, Rutherglen, Glasgow G73 4HR for full details.

ARCHON '94 The 38th British Star Trek Convention. 26th-29th August 1994 at the Edwardian International Hotel, Heathrow, London. Guests TBA. Full registration until 1st May 1994: £27, thereafter £30. Room Rates Twin/Double £31 pppn, single £27 pppn. Closing date for registrations 10th August, 1994. For more information please send a 9"x4" SAE to Archon Registrations, 43 Eastern Avenue, Polegate, East Sussex BN26 6HG.

IRECON 4 3rd & 4th September, 1994. The Royal Hotel, Bray, Co. Wicklow. Guest (work permitting): Gates McFadden. Programme includes guests, role-play board games, videos, workshops, dealers' room etc. Tel: 01 - 2862935.

MIDCON Full registrations 7th - 9th October, 1994. Holiday Inn, Leicester. - The Midlands' 13th Annual Star Trek Convention & 21st British Star Trek Anniversary Convention. (Don't confuse us with any other Convention @ The Holiday Inn-October 1994). Remember there is only one Midcon; this is our 8th consecutive year

@ this venue from the team you can trust. Full registrations: £30.00 (children pro-rata) also daily available. Send a S.A.E. to Terry Elson, MIDCON '94, 8 Ennerdale Close, OADBY, Leicester LE2 4TN.

WOLF 359 in association with 1701 A-D 28th - 31st October 1994. Holiday Inn Leicester. Registration £30 (till Dec 93), children under 16 years half price, under 7 years FREE. Payments by instalments accepted. Accommodation: All rooms include B&B. Triple £25.00, Twin/Double £30.00, Single £41.00. Enquire about the QUAD at £22.50. Young adults under 19 years are free when sharing with a parent, (breakfast will be charged additionally). All enquiries to Margo White, 37 Branksome Road, Southend on Sea, Essex SS2 4HG. Please enclose a SAE.

SOL III '95 - the 39th British Star Trek Convention. 26-29 May 1995. Norbreck Castle Hotel, Blackpool. Charities: Shelter, Redwings Horse Sanctuary. Registration Fee: £30 Adult; £15 5-14 yrs; under 5's free. For further information and registration forms, write to Sol III, c/o Jean Barron, 39 Dersingham Avenue, Manor Park, London E12 5QF.

STARSHIP VOYAGES presents a Star Trek cruise in 1995. For more information send a SASE to Starship Voyages, 5 Plough Rise, Cranham, Upminster, Essex RM14 1XR.

OTHER EVENTS

MASQUE III - The Third British Costume Convention. March 4th-6th, 1994. Stakis Victoria Hotel, Nottingham. It will provide a forum for interchange of ideas between makers of Science Fiction, Historical, Role Playing and all other forms of costume. Membership: Full £20, Supporting £5. SAE for info to Masque III, c/o Mike Percival, 4 Ednaston Court, Yeldersley Lane, Ednaston, Ashbourne, Derbyshire DE6 3BA.

ELYDORE The Easter Event. Meeting at a UK airport the Thursday before Easter, Elydore will fly you to Guernsey for a combined half-board holiday and full two day Convention (Confirmed guest Terry

Pratchett). SAE for details to Elydore '94, c/o 16 Tonbridge Road, West Molesey, Surrey KT8 0EL.

VOYAGE '94 29th-31st July 1994. The First British Convention for fans of Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea. Novotel, Sheffield. Registration: £25 until 31/12/93, then £30. One day rates available. Room Rates: £26 per person, per night - Twin/Double; £33 per person, per night - Single. These rates apply for a 2 night stay. For more details and registration form please send an SAE or 2 IRCs to: Voyage 94, 15 Fullers Court, Exeter, Devon EX2 4DZ.

TRANSYLVANIA '94 29th October, 1994 Novotel, Hammersmith, London. Rocky Horror Convention. Reg: £25 plus 3 SAES until 31/5/94, £30 plus 3 SAEs until 20/10/94. Meet the Guests, a chance to dress and win some great prizes, and your chance to win a meal on us at the real Frankenstein's Place! SAE for registration forms to: Transylvania '94, 1 Elm Grove, Hildenborough, Tonbridge, Kents TN11 9HE. Overseas - please enclose IRCs.

AWAYTEAM '95 Yes, folks, we are doing it again. Next time will be in September 1995. Join us for a terrific Trek and Space Travel theme holiday, taking in a visit to the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, the Star Trek Adventure, Yosemite, San Francisco, Los Angeles and Paramount Studios, to name but a few of the many exciting places we will be visiting. For further details, please contact Sadie Mason & Paul Anson, 63 Woodstock Ave, Bobbers Mill, Nottingham NG7 5QP. (Once again we want to point out that we have NO CONNECTION with the Glasgow Away Team.)

OVERSEAS CONVENTIONS

FEDERATION CON II 1-3 April, Arabella Hotel, Munich, Germany. Guests George Takei, Robin Curtis, Richard Arnold. Registration £75 until 31/12/93, then £85. For more info and registration form send SAE plus IRC to Federation Con II, Monika Schomann, Schopplerstr. 24, 86154 Augsburg, Germany.

STARDREAM I CONVENTION 8th - 11th September, 1994 Mannheim Congress Centre, Rosengarten. Guests include: Richard Arnold, James Doohan, Mark Lenard, George Takei, Robin Curtis, Gates McFadden, John de Lancie, LeVar Burton. Full registration: 280,-DM till 31st December, 300,-DM till 31st March, 320,-DM till 30th June, 340,-DM till 31st August, 1994. For more info and registration form send SAE plus IRC to Star Trek Fanclub, Enterprise, c/o Sylvia Strybuc, Hans Sachs Ring 17, 68199 Mannheim-Niederfeld, Germany.

PERSONAL COLUMN

I would love to hear from adult fans (especially in the USA and other countries). My interests include Spacemaster and Merp role playing, cosmology, the works of JRR Tolkein, music and the Amiga computer. Sandy Kennedy, 13 Mains Avenue, Beith, Ayrshire KA15 2AT.

Did you travel with Away Team 93? - I would like to hear from you. Also from anyone who is thinking of going on Away Team '95 - especially if you will be travelling alone. Janis L. Roberts, 2 Bryn Ogwen, Penrhosgarnedd, Bangor, Gwynedd LL57 2DX

I would like to correspond with any Dorothy Dunnett readers who are also Trek fans. Ann Looker, 12 Russell Street, Swansea SA1 4HR.

PENPAL LIST - open to anyone. Send your ad to M Ferguson, 46 Broughton Road, South Shields, Tyne and Wear, NE33 2RP, England. For a copy of the list send an SAE plus loose 2nd class stamp or 2 International Reply coupons from aboard. List currently (Dec '93) has 50 entries, M/F, 9-51 yrs old from 15 countries worldwide, including 13 SF fans.



SMALL ADS

Please note: All adverts are printed as a service to members and IDIC cannot accept

any liability. Adverts should be a maximum of 10 lines - will be printed in one newsletter only.

Please only offer original items for sale - adverts will be edited if necessary. We will not knowingly print adverts for copied material which breaks copyright.

FOR SALE - ST:TNG novels, Chain of Command, Boogymen £1.50 each; Perchance to Dream, Doomsday World £2.50 each. Star Wreck Live Long and Profit £2. Imzadi audio tapes, still in box, £5. Starburst (5th & 6th seasons of TNG reviewed) £2. ST:TNG Starlog magazines vols 15 & 16 £2.50 each. Lots of ST:TNG 1st season Panini stickers 3p each. Send wants list. Nanaki Kaur, 585 Stratford Road, Sparkhill, Birmingham B11 4LS.

FOR SALE - Star Trek Trading cards: Master-Piece series set of 9- £13.75, Spectra card S-7 (DS9) £4.50 each, 25th Anniversary series I & II £10 each, set of 4 25th Anni Hologram cards £25. Postage £1 first set, each additional set ordered add 0.50p, single cards send SAE. Mark French, 23 Colgrave, Welwyn Garden City, Herts AL8 6HY.

FOR SALE - ST genzines only, albums, books, magazines, comics, toys, and a lot more miscellaneous. Have Starsky & Hutch items, multi-media zines, and Professionals zines. Must sell because of medical expenses. Please indicate which listings you are interested in and send two IRCs to Marie Svarich, 17259 Palmer Road, Moores Hill, IN 47032, USA.

FOR SALE - Massive collection of Starlog and Starburst mags. All in mint condition. Please send SAE for details to: Mr. M Payne, 5 Bassett Road, Coundon, Coventry CV6 1LF.

FOR SALE - 3.5" boxed china plates with stands, one of Sulu, one of Uhura. £5.00 each. Katrina Heintz, 23 Birniehill Ave, Bathgate, West Lothian EH48 2RR.

FOR SALE: GIANT NOVELS, £2.50 each- Metamorphosis, Enterprise - The First Adventure, Strangers From The Sky, Final Frontier, Shadow Lord. All 6 movie novels,

£2 each. "The Classic Episodes" (3 volumes, 25th anniversary ed.) £5 each. 2 sew-on patches, £1 each. 5 various cloisonne pins, £3 each. Set of 10 5"7" ST3, Classic Trek and ST:TMP stills, £3 each. HARDBACKS, £5 each:- Reunion, Prime Directive, Lost Years, Probe, Best Destiny. World Of Star Trek, £5. IDIC LOG 9, £2. TNG CD "Encounter At Farpoint", £5. VARIOUS TREK VIDEOS, £5. Phone Edwin on (0273) 734860 for more details.

FOR SALE - Original Trek gen and K/S zines and books; Professionals books, genzines, slash zines and hatstands; together with multi-media books and zines. SAE for list (2 IRCs if overseas) to Elaine Wells, 13 Castle Dene, Chatham Rd, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1NH.

FOR SALE - Spare Creation 10x 8 photos; Terry Farrell (DS9), Nimoy, Shatner (ST6) £3.99 each including P&P. Harry, 18 East Greenlees Cres., Cambuslang, Glasgow G72 8TX.

WANTED - Could the people who wrote to me offering to copy videos etc. of Jonathan Frakes please write again - the letters were inadvertently destroyed. If anyone else has anything on JF I would love to hear from you. Will pay p&p + reasonable costs. Janis L. Roberts, 2 Bryn Ogwen, Penrhosgarnedd, Bangor, Gwynedd LL57 2DX

WANTED - K/S zine THOSE WHO BELIEVE. Will pay any reasonable price. Contact J Turner, 46 Chinnbrook Rd, Billesley, Birmingham B13 0LX.

WANTED to buy or borrow - Devil's Rain (William Shatner) - any reasonable price paid, or postage paid both ways. Joyce Urquhart, 3 Knockothie Cottages, Ellon, Aberdeenshire.

WANTED - To borrow in good faith, any 5th, 6th or 7th season TNG episodes for personal Trek research. Also any non-Trek William Shatner, Leonard Nimoy, DeForest Kelly, James Doohan films (plus information thereof). It doesn't matter what condition the programmes are in, just as long as they are watchable. If you can help and are willing to

loan your videos, then I will pay your postage costs. All videos will be promptly returned to you. VHS format only. Contact Chris C Bailey, 52 Druids Walk, Didcot, Oxfordshire, OX11 7PF

WANTED - Material remnants suitable for dolls' dressmaking. Will refund postage. Valerie Piacentini, 20 Ardrossan Road, Saltcoats, Ayrshire KA21 5EW, Scotland

WANTED - Do you have an Amstrad CW-8512 computer with 3" disc drives? Do you use MicroDesign2 software? Do you have any Trek clip-art that you'd be willing to sell/swap? If yes to all three questions, then I would very much like to hear from you. Chris C Bailey, 52 Druids Walk, Didcot, Oxfordshire, OX11 7PF

WANTED - I am interested in zines in the sets of Katra, Mind Meld, Vault of Tomorrow and Whalesong. Reasonable prices paid. Contact Lynne Buckley, 160 Fairway Rd, Shapshed, Loughborough, Leics LE12 9HQ, Tel 0509 - 508143.

WANTED - Good colour photographs of Marina Sirtis at Warp One and colour photos of any TNG characters. Will pay any reasonable price. Nanaki Kaur, 585 Stratford Road, Sparkhill, Birmingham B11 4LS.

WANTED - K/S Zines Night Visions and Fetish; also any other "/" - especially Man from UNCLE and Multi-Media. Some assorted K/S and M-M "/" zines for sale. SAE please. Gill Gaffikin, 128 Cygnet Avenue, Feltham, Middlesex TW14 0DT.

WANTED - I still need some TNG videos, mostly 4th and 6th seasons. Also zines - heavy on Spock content! Reasonable prices, please. Jennifer Blanchard, 14 Eashing Lane, Godalming, Surrey GU7 2JZ

WANTED - Does anyone have the following two zines; Courts of Honor and US zine called Lifeboat by Bev Zuk. To buy or lend, will pay any reasonable price. All costs met. Please contact C. Davey, 18A MacDonald Avenue, Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex SS0 9BS

WANTED - ST:TNG officer's uniform. I

would be grateful if anyone who makes them, or knows where I can buy one, would write to me - Deborah Ratcliffe, 61 Segars Lane, Ainsdale, Southport PR8 3JA All expenses will be paid, of course. Thanks!

BUSINESS SMALL ADS

THE OFFICIAL STAR TREK FAN CLUB OF THE UK, The Old Barn, Jericho Farm, Worton, Near Cassington, Oxford OX8 1EB. Tel. No. 0865 883330. £14.99 for 4 magazines.



UPDATE

We have available a set of information sheets giving the addresses and brief details of all the British Star Trek clubs and local groups we know about, plus Star Trek related actor clubs in the UK and abroad. If you would like a copy write and ask Janet; enclose at least a 9" x 6" SAE plus an extra loose 25p stamp. (Note: new members receive a copy of this when they join IDIC, although we update it with the following info from each newsletter.)

Please enclose a SASE when writing to clubs for information.

ANGF - Avid Next Genners' Forum is a Next Generation ONLY fanclub that's starting up. It's to be absolutely crammed with news, info, debate, the Next Generation, etc. You DEFINITELY have something to offer. Please get in contact. For more information send an SASE to: Corinna McCarthy, "The Coppice", Ardananagh, Killarney, Co. Kerry, Ireland.

STAGE 8 an International fan club for fans of Star Trek The Next Generation. Four n/l's a year. U.K. £5.00. Europe £7.00 (inc. Eire), U.S.A. \$16.00/£10.00. SAE to Stage 8, c/o Sue Bunce, 11 Charingworth Road, Oakwood, Derby DE21 2QD.

GALACTIC FRIENDSHIP: Star Trek fan

club, bi-monthly newsletters, news updates, yearbook (all publications in German), penpal list, more. 350,- Austrian Schillings per year. For information send SAE to Maria Nausch, Schmalzhofergasse 20/12, A-1060 Vienna, Austria.

GENESIS II: For a club that's fun, join Genesis II. 4 newsletters per year and regular meetings are held at The Royal Angus Hotel in Birmingham City Centre every other month as well as various outings being organised. Memberships are £4.50 per year, £8.00 for two years. Contact Mo Rowley, 36 Kingscote Close, Church Hill, Redditch, Worcs. B98 9LJ enclosing an SAE.

BEVERLYOPHILES - The address for this club is now Daniel van der Weile, 215 Spruce St No. 215, Vermillion, SD 57069, USA. NB - Kim Junius is no longer connected with this club.

U.S.S. INTREPID: Based in Dartford, the Intrepid provides a forum for like-minded people to meet and share in their enjoyment of all aspects of Star Trek. Although mainly Trek-oriented, we also cater for those whose interests cover other SF and Fantasy. We hold regular meetings and club events to which all members are welcome. The Club publishes a quarterly Newsletter. Dues £6.50. SAE for more info to Tina Hewett, 115 The Brent, Dartford, Kent DA1 1YH.

CCSTSG Enterprises is a monthly compendium of news, views and analysis, with articles that inform, entertain, and challenge readers who like to think critically about Star Trek. Columns include Rumor Mills (the latest hot news), Culture Watch, IDIC Watch, Technology Watch, Ferengi Awards, Scenes We'd Like to See, and more. Recent feature articles have touched on language, political correctness, overpopulation, religion, gay rights and technological developments - as played out in Star Trek and in the world at large. There's lots of silliness too. Published by Jeff Mills, founder of the Central Connecticut Star Trek Support Group and teacher of "The Cultural Relevance of Star Trek," CCSTSG Enterprises is available to U.S. subscribers for \$9/6 issues or \$16/12 issues (Canada: \$10/\$18) (Foreign:

\$15/\$27.50). Sample issue: \$1.50 (\$2.50/foreign). (Checks payable to "Jeff Mills"). Send to CCSTSG Enterprises, 7 Quarry Street, Vernon, CT 06066-2614, USA.

TREXPERTS: ST fan club for fans everywhere. Trexperts offers a 28-page monthly zine featuring con reports, artwork, episode updates, ST news, fan fiction and much more. Dues \$20 US, \$24 Canada, \$28 overseas, for 1 years membership. For more details, write to Valerie Herd, Trexperts, 7459 Nasrullah Crescent, Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada L2H 2M4.

OTHER CLUBS

THE NETWORK - Quarterly letterzine about The Man From U.N.C.L.E., annual subscription £4.00 UK, \$10.00 US. Write with SASE/2 IRCs for further details to Miss Jay Felton, 'Cloudbase', 54 St Mary's Road, Leyton, London E10 5RB.

SPECTRUM STRIKES BACK! - Discussion newsletter about Captain Scarlet and related shows, now becoming operational again. Write with SASE/2 IRCs for further details to Linda Chapple, 'Cloudbase', 54 St Mary's Road, Leyton, London E10 5RB.

LOCAL GROUP NEWS

I am a member of Starfleet Command and I am looking for people in the Cheshire area, with the aim of creating a sub unit of Starfleet Command. Please contact Shirley Shatner, 18 Grampian Way, Winsford, Cheshire, CW7 1QC. Tel 0606 559239.

ENERGIZE - the ST group in Ashford. Weekly meetings involve chat, tea, coffee, Romulan ale and videos. Contact Chris King on 170 580 4741 ext 196 during office hours or Dave & Tina Styles on 0233 642687 any time.

NORTH WALES Local Group. Contact Martin Hodgkins, 69 Fairways, Llandudno, Gwynedd.

COVENTRY: Monthly meetings held in Coventry. First Saturday of every month at 12 noon, rear of Hotel Leofric in White Lion Bar, City Centre. All Trekkers welcome. Tel:

0203 503113. Mene Sakkhet Ur Seveh.

THE AWAY TEAM: Scotland's Largest Star Trek Local Group. Regular meetings (10 am - 10 pm) every 6 weeks or so. Video orientated group with over 650 members showing the latest episodes of TNG and DS9. Star Trek merchandise for sale in Dealer's Room. Upcoming dates 19 February, 16 April, 7 May and 11 June 1994 at City Halls, Glasgow. Send SAE to Contagion (Away Team), PO Box 867, Rutherglen, Glasgow G73 4HR for full details.

THE BRIDGE CREW: - formerly The Landing Party. The group can be contacted at Wester Auchinricoach Farm, Banton, Near Kilsyth G65 0QZ. Please enclose an SAE.

HULL STARFLEET Monthly meetings at the Tamworth Lodge, Beverley Road, Hull. Sundays 12 noon until 5pm, admission £1. For more info contact Tracy Beadle, 7 Lynwood Grove, Goddard Avenue, Hull HU5 2BE. Please enclose a SAE.

IPSWICH STARFLEET Star Trek Fan Club encompassing all forms of Star Trek. For details please write, with SAE, to Chris Wileman, 15 Parkeston Road, Felixstowe, Suffolk, IP11 8NF or telephone number above.

LEEDS STARFLEET: Meetings on the 2nd Sunday of the month between 12 and 5pm at Centenary House, North Street, Leeds 2. New larger venue!!! Write with SAE for more details to; Leeds Starfleet, P.O. Box HP 1701, Leeds LS6 4TE.

THE LONDON STAR TREK GROUP meets every two months or so at the Britannia Intercontinental Hotel, Grosvenor Square, London W1. For more details send an SAE to Kim Knight, 38 Rochford Avenue, Loughton, Essex IG10 2BS.

OPEN HOUSE First weekend of every month but please phone first to check (081 985 0426). Zines for sale, tapes to watch, other fans to chat to. Janet Ellicott, 43 Brooksbank House, Retreat Place, Morning Lane, Hackney E9.

PRIME DIRECTIVE meets twice monthly at a city centre venue. Write to Michael Butcher, 501 Beechdale Road, Aspley, Nottingham NG8 3LF, for further info, enclosing an SAE.

SPACE CENTRAL The West Midlands Star Trek Group. Monthly meetings at Tamworth Arts Centre Theatre, Saturdays. Latest episodes on large screen, refreshments and occasional guest speakers/live events. Social evenings. Over 16s only. £1.50 per session. For dates/further details, SAE to Lee Owers Sansome, 15 Foxglove, Amington, Tamworth, Staffs B77 4HY.

STAR TREK: THE NEW GATHERING (U.S.S. Discovery). Local meetings held in the Community Room, St Helens Library monthly. Write for details to Sharon Rowe, 93 Juddfield Street, Haydock, St Helens, Merseyside WA11 0BD.

U.S.S. TIANAMEN - Kirkcaldy's new Star Trek club for the over-18s. All enquiries contact Zander Bruce, 73 Brown Crescent, Thornton, Fife KY1 4AB, including SAE. 50% of money taken goes to IDIC Guide Dogs.

THE OUTER ZONE: meets once a month in Brighton. For more details of the club and the newsletter, please send an SASE to Ms. Sue Parker, The Outer Zone, 42 Victoria Street, BRIGHTON, East Sussex, BN1 3FQ.

DREAMWEAVERS local group specialising in Doctor Who, Star Trek and other cult Sci-fi. For more information please send a SAE to Ursula Clarke, 10 Bunbury Road, Bury St. Edmunds, IP32 6HT.



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The opinions stated in this newsletter are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect those of the committee.

Send to:-

Janet - Subscriptions, renewals, all newsletter submissions on disc; all news, cuttings, adverts, merchandise info etc. for the newsletter; used stamps for the Guide Dogs.

Sheila - All Zine orders; postbag, articles & reviews for the newsletter; TNG submissions for zines (stories, poetry and artwork); used stamps.

Valerie - Classic Trek submissions for zines (stories, poetry and artwork).

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